MONDAY
June 26, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.150

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

CONGRESS ON OMSS

'Centre is sabotaging Anna Bhagya scheme'

SOUTH » PAGE 9

CROP NETWORK

Retail giant helps farmers access markets

NEWS » PAGE 14

REBELS RETURN

Wagner chief to move to Belarus in new deal

WORLD » PAGE 15

MANIPUR

This is not the time to point fingers

The inter-community duelling must stop

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

CHANDRAYAAN-3

Vikram to return for moon mission

NEWS » PAGE 14

NEARBY

CM calls for a movement to oust BJP

BENGALURU
Stating that there is a necessity of a non-BJP government to take the country on the path of development, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said everyone should involve in another struggle like the Independence struggle to remove the BJP from power. The popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, is waning. » Page 8

Our business hit, say auto drivers

BENGALURU
Autorickshaw drivers in the city say that the success of the Shakti scheme has affected their business, as women are preferring to take buses than travel by autorickshaws.

» Page 2

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGES 4, 5 & 7

Trainer aircraft makes emergency landing on agricultural field

A trainer aircraft operated by Redbird Flight Training Academy, after it made an emergency landing on an agricultural field near Pete Sirur village in Chittapur taluk of Kalaburagi district on Sunday.

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A trainer aircraft operated by Redbird Flight Training Academy made an emergency landing on an agricultural field near Pete Sirur village in Chittapur taluk of Kalaburagi district on Sunday morning. There are no causalities nor is there any damage to the two-seater aircraft.

As per the information from an officer in Kalaburagi Airport, the aircraft developed technical glitches minutes after it took off from Kalaburagi Airport, forcing the pilot to make a landing. The two crew members – the pilot instructor and a trainee – are both safe.

"The trainer aircraft developed technical glitches after take off from Kalaburagi Airport and travelled about 10 km. The pilot immediately contacted the Air Traffic Control (ATC) and successfully landed the aircraft on an agricultural field about 23 km away from Kalaburagi. We have informed all the concerned authorities including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Internship rule affects foreign medical graduates

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

A section of foreign medical graduates have appealed to the Union Health Ministry for intervention to get their certificate of permanent registration from the respective State Medical Councils (SMC).

Without the registration, these doctors cannot work in India, despite having completed their course and one-year internship.

The latest rule from July 2022 now calls for a rotating medical internship for two years.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

After meeting Shah, Biren says will reach out to Kukis

Union Home Minister instructs Manipur Chief Minister to crack down on violence irrespective of the community involved, asks to arrange for a talk with the women's group Meira Paibis

Nistula Hebbar
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Sunday said the Kuki community was among his own, and promised that a fresh round of dialogue will be initiated with all stakeholders in the State.

Mr. Singh was in Delhi to meet Home Minister Amit Shah and brief him "about the evolving situation on the ground in Manipur". The meeting comes a day after Mr. Shah chaired an all-party meeting on the issue. Ten MLAs from the Kuki community in the hill districts of Manipur, including seven from the BJP, demanded the Chief Minister's resignation.

Towards stability: Biren Singh said Amit Shah advised them to work as a team to restore peace in Manipur. PTI

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Singh said he had a detailed discussion with Mr. Shah, who advised him to establish peace in the State and revive dialogue across communities – including the Meira Paibis (the women's group) and civil society groups.

Mr. Shah is learnt to have told the Chief Minister that he needs to speak to the women's group as it was becoming a problem for the security forces.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Modi, Sisi ink deal on strategic partnership

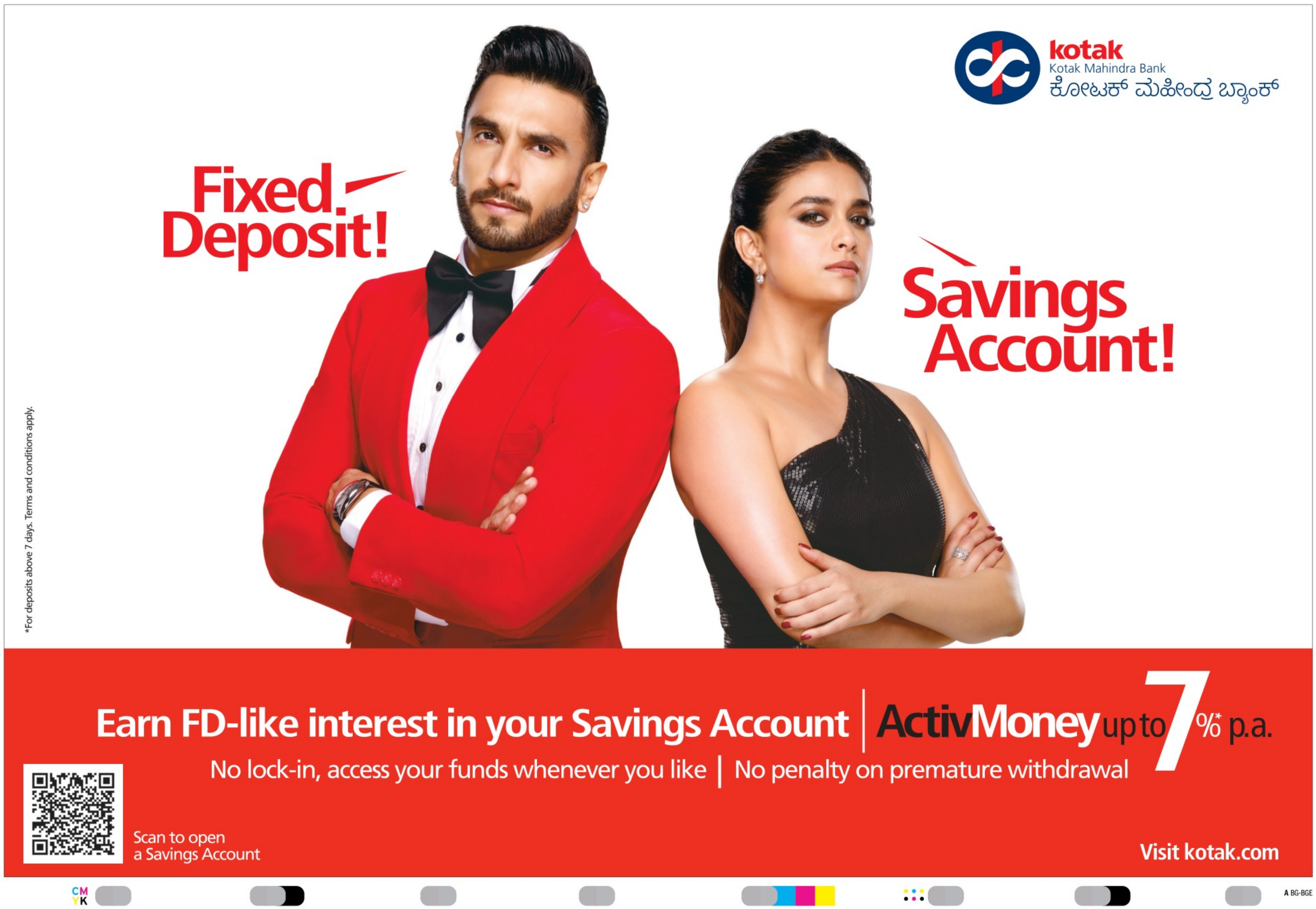
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India and Egypt on Sunday signed an agreement on a strategic partnership as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo. The Government of Egypt bestowed the highest honour of the land – the Order of the Nile – on the visiting Indian leader and Mr. Modi described his first state visit to Egypt as "historic".

"The four agreements that were signed during the visit (June 24-25) of the honourable Prime Minister – first, the most important, and a landmark development in the history of bilateral relationship was the signature on the strategic partnership between India and Egypt. It was signed by the Honourable Prime Minister Modi and the Honourable President El-Sisi of Egypt," Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra announced. He said green and renewable collaboration will be an important part of future partnership with Egypt because of the importance the two sides attach to clean energy.

Three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in the fields of agriculture, archaeology and antiquities, and competition law were also signed, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12


kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank
ಕೋಟಕ್ ಮಹೀಂದ್ರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್
Fixed Deposit!
Savings Account!
*For deposits above 7 days. Terms and conditions apply.
Earn FD-like interest in your Savings Account | ActivMoney up to 7% p.a.
No lock-in, access your funds whenever you like | No penalty on premature withdrawal
Scan to open a Savings Account
Visit kotak.com

Pujara, the quintessential Test batter with a steely resolve and huge appetite for runs, will be missed

Time to thank the mainstay of the Indian line-up for over a decade for services rendered; whether the present punctuation to his illustrious career is a full stop or a comma remains to be seen

CRICKET

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Immovable asset: Pujara had largely been an integral part of India's middle-order right from his debut against Australia in Bengaluru in 2010 till the World Test Championship final early this month. FILE PHOTOS

Transition is in the air and when change is inevitable, an axe is just around the corner. Just as the BCCI's press release announcing the Indian squads (Test and ODI series) for the West Indies tour, popped up through social media and in the email inboxes of cricket writers, it was time to accept that Cheteshwar Pujara had become the sacrificial lamb. The axe was on him, and this could be the last full stop on his storied international career or a mere comma, as India's No. 3 batter in Tests had made a comeback after an omission in the recent past.

The quest for a new-mix, be it among batters and bowlers, in the fresh World Test Championship (WTC) cycle may have forced the Indian think-tank of coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma along with the selectors to plump for young talent. India's performance has been a tale of so-near-and-yet-so-far in two WTC finals – the latest being the loss against Australia – and the added ageism factor obvious in the squad's core group hovering around the mid-30s mark meant that a cull, even if it was partial, was in the offing.

Pujara, despite a good turn with Sussex in County cricket, didn't exactly translate that form against old foe Australia, besides that he is 35. Interestingly, the Saurashtra batter's Test debut was against Australia in Bengaluru in 2010 and his second-innings 72 during a successful chase marked him out as special. Unfortunately, a leg-injury scuttled his initial forays but he staged a fine comeback and has been intrinsic to India's middle-order for more than a decade until the stutter over the last few years.

Low profile

Billed as Dravid's successor at No. 3, Pujara brought to the table traits that were innate to his predecessor: adhesive batting on the turf and a low-profile, avoid-the-cameras lifestyle off the field. Plus, like Dravid, Pujara stepped in with a steely resolve while also being fully aware that the crowds had trooped in mostly to see the batter stepping in one rung after him at four. For Dravid, it was Sachin Tendulkar; for Pujara, it was Virat Kohli. But both Dravid and Pujara, in their unique phlegmatic ways, had made their peace with fandom's quirks. Interestingly, Dravid was Pujara's colleague when the latter made his debut. And now when a seeming twilight darkens Pujara's visage, Dravid is the coach.

With Ishant Sharma and Wriddhiman Saha being given the cold shoulder from the national team, it remains to be seen if Pujara too has been relegated to that senior players' club. Their achievements are respected, the 'thank you' notes are said while an ominous whisper hangs in their ears: "hey it is time for a youngster, so move on". They are not the first to hear it and they will not be the last as squad evolution is an inevitable process. Pujara was a unique player, a throwback to a gentler past when there was time to pause and look at the skies, rustle through silverfish-eaten books in old libraries, when the slow life was real and not a fad as it is made out to be. As cricket, driven by revenue streams, preferred the multiple avatars of Tests, ODIs and T20s, Pujara was the quintessential long-format player.

His was a style in sync with Test whites. The winnowing steps, the half-smile, the few words, the defensive shot, the leave outside off-stump, the quick single and equally those fours once his eye was in. While some of his peers were quick to embrace the frenzied underpinnings of limited-over cricket, Pujara was slotted in as a Test specialist, even if briefly the Chennai Super Kings kept him in their stables for the Indian Premier League. The pure Test batter is a near-extinct species and only Pujara largely and to some extent Joe Root have kept that club's flag flying high.

No mean feat

To hail from Rajkot, famous for its ice-gola, and to push his claims past other stars from bigger cities, was no mean feat. And surely there is a certain cool air when Pujara is at the crease, be it as a batter or hovering as a catcher in the slips or at forward short-leg. There was never any fuss, perhaps an upturned eyebrow once in a while, and then he narrowed his gaze.

Watch the ball closely remained his attitude, be it as a willow-wielder or fielder. He played his part in India being this immovable object at home, equally he helped his team dig deep and flourish overseas, too, the last two tours of Australia being the prime examples.

Stone-walling may be the cliche linked to Pujara, as during the Ravi Shastri-Kohli regime, talk veered towards scoring rates in Tests. Relatively, when compared to Rohit Sharma or Kohli, Pujara's rate may seem sluggish but his role was linked to being the one that papers the cracks, the essential plaster-of-paris while others proved to be splashes of colour. A batter, who can bat for time, is a priceless asset in Tests, even if we live in an era of 'Bazball' cricket. Pujara ticked that vital box and it wasn't as if his 7,195 Test runs were steeped in boredom.

Teamman

These were runs scored for the team's cause, to strengthen a total, to set up a target and to lay a base for a chase. He was the quintessential teamman with a huge appetite for runs. Not for him the limelight itch or the stardust of celebrity-hood. Over the last few seasons, as his runs dried up and this again based upon his exalted standards, there was a doubt if Pujara could nail the longevity index: playing 100 Tests. He just about managed that and it is a tribute to his skill-sets and the strength he offers to the team.

Making a debut is relatively easier than surviving in a squad for long. Karun Nair, who scored a Test triple century, is out on pasture; a gritty Hanuma Vihari seems to have been forgotten though he surely has age on his side, and there are many others who haven't lasted the distance. This is also because even if batters are seemingly the rockstars, their stay upon the pitch is a tense affair. A delivery is both an opportunity and a threat and all it takes is one mistake for the batter to return to the dressing room. Careers can unravel soon and it takes a special talent to last more than a decade and carve a unique identity.

Pure batter

Dravid, often the comparison-yardstick for Pujara, also kept wickets in ODIs during a phase when he needed that extra offering to cement his berth. Pujara, however, remained a pure batter in Test whites and that also undid him in a sense that unlike his peers, who could always lean upon an ODI or a T20 to press their case, he only had the longest format to advance his career. But being the practical man that he is, Pujara used the breaks to play County cricket in England and domestic cricket back home. 'Line up the ball, play the appropriate stroke, repeat', was his constant mind-voice. In a squad of flamboyant characters, he was the monk who loved his meditative stints at the crease.

As India presses ahead with a measured transition, would Pujara get another chance? Ajinkya Rahane, seemingly forgotten, has got a second wind, scored runs in the WTC final and is now the Test vice-captain. Pujara getting another chance may not be set in stone but what cannot be taken away from him are the vital runs he essayed, which will continue to glitter even if the owner of that yield prefers to be in the shadows with a shy smile. The 103 Tests are a tribute to Pujara's sheer class and his latest tweet, just a visual of him batting in the nets, shows that his love for the craft remains strong as ever.

The wait

The Indian team may have moved on, but in domestic cricket Pujara will keep waiting for the thud of the red cherry into his broad willow. The great G.R. Viswanath was dropped after the 1983 Pakistan tour known for Imran Khan's scintillating wickets but the maestro plied his stylish wares in First Class cricket till the 1987-88 season. Similarly, Pujara's last word entirely belongs to him. But for now it is time to say thank you for services rendered.

Maxwell Trevor on a mission to produce champions in cycling

Going places: Some of Trevor's trainees were selected for the NCoE camp. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Former multiple-time National cycling title winner Maxwell Trevor is on a mission to produce champions at his Dr. Maxwell Trevor Cycling Welfare Association (MTCWA), an academy started in 2014 for those in the age-group of six to 14.

Seven of his trainees, including a few from other states who are in the Academy – Shiva Bindiya, S. Rathnika, Pisa Yagu, Ginjing Tari, Soumik Pohi, Vikash and Aryan Yadav – were selected for the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) camp, a Government of India project run by the Cycling Federation of India (CFI) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

> We conduct a free summer camp to identify young talent (six to 15 years) where we provided cycles, helmets and other equipment

"The purpose of the NCoE camps in Delhi, Guwahati, Manipur and Thiruvananthapuram is to identify talent between 12 and 16 years," Maxwell told *The Hindu*.

"Riders are inducted as per the region they come from and also have an option of requesting to opt for other centres if they wish, subject to availability or vacancy.

"They have to maintain as well as improve their standard as there is a weeding out process every six months in which the non-performers or low performers will be sent home.

"These camps, under the supervision of qualified coaches, have all the necessary equipment that is needed to develop the athletes, such as watt bikes, road cycles, track cycles, wahoo trainers, rollers etc.," Maxwell said.

"CFI's aim is to identify talent first and then nurture the same to develop them into world-class athletes.

"We, at the MTCWA, play a role as good as a feeder centre," Maxwell added.

LTADP

The two-time Asian Games participant said a Long Term Athlete Development Programme (LTADP) was devised to nurture, train and develop athletes across the country (six to 12 years) to get them selected for the Khelo India camp.

"We conduct a free summer camp to identify young talent (6 to 15 years) where we provided cycles, helmets and other equipment followed by a nutritious breakfast every day, which was supported by the parents," Maxwell said.

Auto drivers say free bus ride for women has hit their business

Ridership in RTC buses across the State has added nearly 20 lakh passengers per day, a major chunk of it in Bengaluru, ever since the launch of the Shakti scheme on June 11. Auto drivers say bookings from ride-hailing apps have come down

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to C. Sampath, general secretary of Adarsha Auto Drivers' Union in Bengaluru, auto drivers have lost 30-40% of their business after the Shakti scheme was launched. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Pooja S., who commutes from Bagalagunte to Dasarahalli metro station in North Bengaluru, shifted from autorickshaws to bus after the launch of the Shakti scheme that provides free bus rides for women in non-premium services.

"I used to take an auto to reach the metro station and back home. But now, I have shifted to bus since it is free and I can save at least some money. Earlier, an auto ride would cost me ₹50 one way. Now, I am saving the money that I used to spend on auto rides. The buses are crowded and will take time. But hopefully, the crowd may come down eventually and the bus fleet will be expanded," she said.

She's not alone. Auto drivers in the city claim that the success of the Shakti scheme only meant they were losing business further. Most auto drivers in the city have been seeing a decline in auto bookings, especially on ride-hailing applications, allege autorickshaw drivers' unions. This comes even as the ridership in RTC buses across the State has added nearly 20 lakh passengers per day, a major chunk of it in the city, ever since the launch of the scheme on June 11. However, this also comes amid many groups of women such as garment workers – nearly 3 lakh strong in the city – complaining of an inadequate BMTC network and thus being denied the benefits of the scheme.

"Before free bus travel for women was launched, I used to earn ₹2,000 daily, but in the last one week, my earnings have dropped to ₹1,000 to ₹1,500. Most of the people who take auto rides are women in the city and after the launch of the Shakti scheme many are now taking buses," said R. Krishna, an auto driver from Laggere.

'Drivers suffering'

C. Sampath, general secretary of Adarsha Auto Drivers' Union in the city, said that their drivers were saying that at least 30-40% of the business had been lost after the scheme was launched. It may benefit women, but auto drivers are suffering.

"I used to get at least 10 bookings every day through the ride-hailing apps, but now I get only five or eight bookings. In peak hours, the number of ride requests is coming down. Most women prefer to go by bus," said Ravindra, another auto driver from Moodalapalya, but added that he had been noticing that he usually gets rides from metro stations and bus stops to wherever there are no bus services.

Evidently, not all women have shifted to buses from autos and cabs. Lack of BMTC connectivity and overcrowding of buses are some of the key reasons why many still continue to hail autos and cabs. "Every day, I travel from Bannerghatta Road to Bellandur for work. I wanted to travel by bus since it is free for us, however since there is no proper bus connectivity, I have to depend on autos to reach the office. I spend at least ₹500 every day to commute," said Pavana Rao, an IT employee.

Garment and Textile Workers' Union has also complained that the three-lakh-strong women workforce in the sector had not been able to avail of the benefits of the scheme as the bus connectivity to areas where they lived was poor and have demanded that the BMTC run mini-buses to these areas from garment factory hubs in the city.

Citizen groups, experts seek more buses, bus lanes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greenpeace campaigner Amruta Nair has called for revival of the 11 bus priority lanes as conceived by DULT

As the Shakti scheme is seeing crowded buses in Bengaluru and other parts of the State, civil society groups and experts have now renewed their demand for more buses and bus lanes. This comes ahead of the State Budget Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is all set to present on July 7.

On Sunday, various civil society groups in Bengaluru participated in an open citizens' assembly – 'Let's Move Bengaluru' to amplify "the public voices in building sustainable cities and in a bid push towards public transport with the expectation to optimise passenger-centric public transport, and communicate the practical solutions to policymakers that can be implemented in the city."

Concrete infrastructure

"Over the past 25 years, the government has heavily invested in the construction of concrete infrastructure, such as flyovers and elevated roads, only encouraging the purchase of more private vehicles. These only provide temporary relief and do not address the root cause of traffic congestion. Moreover, these projects often come at the cost of environmental degradation, displacement of people, and loss of green spaces," argued Ashish Verma, converner, IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, batting for augmenting public transport especially buses.

Citizens speak

The introduction of the Shakti scheme recently was met with a lot of admiration from various stakeholders, but as Yamuna Ganesh, a garment factory union leader, pointed out, "The scheme remains inadequate with the lack of buses in the city. With most factories and its workers located on the outskirts of the city, the BMTC needs to build a more dense network in those localities."

Gajalakshmi, a member of the Slum Dwellers Federation, added that the community in Benson Town is not able to use the scheme as the bus routes of the area have been discontinued since the pandemic.

Greenpeace campaigner Amruta Nair called for the revival of the 11 bus priority lanes as conceived by the DULT under the comprehensive metropolitan plan. The Bangalore Apartment Federation noted that the transportation system in the city is fragmented and uncoordinated, with different modes of transportation operated by different agencies resulting in a lack of seamless connectivity between different modes of transportation.

PPP model

Rajeev Gowda, former MP and spokesperson of the Indian National Congress who was one of the panelists, accepted that the bus fleet may be falling short and suggested public-private partnership to meet the new demand.

"Ridership has jumped by 14 lakh, we can roughly hold it as there are 7 lakh new bus users from the past two weeks. We are definitely short on the fleet, and we could look beyond the public bus fleet to meet the new growing demand, maybe work a partnership model with private players, another option is CSR funds," he said.

REC Ltd. to provide ₹3,045 cr. for Namma Metro Phase II

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

REC Ltd., a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power, has decided to extend financial assistance of ₹3,045 crore to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), for the establishment and development of metro lines under Phase-II project of Namma Metro.

According to a press release, the decision to extend the assistance was taken at the board meeting of REC, held in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The Phase-II project of Namma Metro comprises the extension of two corridors of Phase-I, namely the east-west corridor and the north-south corridor, and two new lines – one from R.V. Road to Bommasandra and another from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara.

"With the completion of Phase-II (72.09 km), the combined network of Namma Metro shall stand at a line length of 114.39 km, with 101 stations," the release added.

For brisk sale

Gearing up: Men feeding sheep at a temporary livestock market set up in Bengaluru ahead of Bakrid. GETTY IMAGES

KSRTC issues clarification on misleading accident video

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The lorry that was involved in the accident with a KSRTC bus on the Nanjangud-T. Narsipur route. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After a video clip of an accident was circulated on social media alleging that two women sustained injuries while boarding a bus through a window, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) on Sunday issued a clarification that the video was misleading people.

The video footage was circulated on social media claiming that due to the surge in crowd after the introduction of Shakti scheme in the State, the women tried to use the window to board the bus and got injured. However, the KSRTC clarified that the video was of an accident between a KSRTC bus and a lorry that occurred on June 18.

"On 18 June, a KSRTC bus of Nanjangud depot of Chamarajanagar division was operating on the Nanjangud-T. Narsipur route near Basavarajpura. At about 1.45 p.m., a lorry bearing the number TN77 Q8735, speeding in a rash and negligent manner in the opposite direction, hit the bus on the rear right side. This resulted in injuries to two women passengers sitting on the window side of the bus," a statement by the KSRTC stated.

"Due to the accident, S. Shanta Kumari's right hand got severed and Rajamma Nayaka got severe injuries on her right hand. KSRTC officers visited the spot and admitted the injured to the government hospital at Nanjangud for first aid and later shifted them to Apollo Hospital in Mysuru for further treatment. An FIR was lodged against the lorry driver at Biligere police station," the KSRTC said while rejecting the misleading claim being circulated on social media. "It is clarified and brought to your kind notice that the incident has not happened while boarding the bus by the passengers as depicted on social media," the KSRTC statement added.

The corporation said the *prima facie* investigation had revealed that the KSRTC driver was not at fault for the accident. However, the KSRTC is incurring all the treatment expenses of the injured.

Indiranagar residents complain of water contamination

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A sump with contaminated water.

The last couple of days have been a horrific experience for residents of Indiranagar as they claim to have been supplied contaminated water by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

Residents say that they have been receiving smelly and unclean water. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sneha Nandihal said, "We have been receiving contaminated water for the last 3 to 4 days. Most residents have disconnected their water supply, cleaned their water tanks, and are getting water supplied through tankers to their homes everyday."

Ms. Nandihal claimed that there has been a consistent problem in the surrounding areas and some residents have even been hospitalised. "The same issue had happened in the neighbouring areas such as Michael Palya and Krishna Temple Road. Residents of Krishna Temple Road found water mixed with sewage in their sumps. The contamination in Michael Palya has been there for the last 3 months, many residents have been hospitalised due to this," she said.

Shekhar Ravi, a resident of Michael Palya said, "We have been receiving contaminated water for the last 3 months. In the mornings, the water is clean and usable, however, by evening the water is contaminated and has a stench. The water is completely unusable, we call for water tankers every day and split the charges with our neighbours."

Lohith, another resident of Michael Palya, said some of his neighbours cannot afford to buy water from the suppliers and he shares it with them.

"The BWSSB had started a project to get the water lines checked a couple of months ago after residents of the surrounding areas complained of contaminated water, however, they are yet to fix the line at Indiranagar. This is not a new issue, and has been persistent in the entire 80 feet road," said Swarna Venkataraman, a resident of Indiranagar.

N. Jayaram, Chairman, BWSSB, claimed that the mishap had happened due to a project undertaken by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). " The issue will be solved in a few days. The BBMP is working on reassembling a storm-water drain, some of the stones being installed have damaged the water supply pipes and have led to the contamination," he said.

Mr. Jayaram said the BWSSB had been supplying clean water through water tanks to the residents of Indiranagar ever since they received the complaints. He added that each house was being supplied with at least 1,000 to 2,000 litres of water through tankers.

Fabricator booked for marrying girl two months before she turned 18

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The girl was admitted to Vani Vilas Hospital for delivery and the doctor found her age to be 18 years and seven months

The Soladevanahalli police on Friday booked a 21-year-old fabricator for marrying a girl while she was two months short of legal age for marriage.

The incident occurred when on June 19 the girl was admitted to Vani Vilas Hospital for delivery, and the doctor who counselled the girl found her age to be 18 years seven months at the time of delivery.

The doctors filed a report with the police who rushed to the hospital and recorded the statement of the girl, before filing a complaint.

Charges

The Soladevanahalli police have registered a case against John Phillips, charging him under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

According to the police, the girl was working as a domestic help at a house in Annapoorneshwari Nagar in Kempapura. The accused was working in a near-by shop in the neighborhood. They fell in love and got married.

The girl, according to the police, conceived in September in 2022 and was admitted to the hospital on June 19.

Report submitted

The couple are happily married, but since she was two months short of the legal age for marriage, a case has been registered. The police have now submitted a report to the court to take necessary action in this case.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MEMORIAL FUND
TEEN MURTI HOUSE, NEW DELHI - 110011

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011 offers 18 scholarships (UR-6/SC-3/ST-1/OBC-5/EWS-2/PwD-1) to Indian Nationals and 2 scholarships to Nationals of other Asian countries for Ph.D. studies in India from 1 April 2024 for up to 2 years. The subjects covered are: Indian History & Civilization, Sociology, Comparative Studies in Religion & Culture, Economics and Ecology & Environment. Application forms can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the JNMF office. Duly filled in forms should reach the JNMF office latest by 31 August 2023. Further details such as stipend and other terms and conditions will be available in the Information Sheet in our website: www.jnmf.in; Email: jnmf1964@gmail.com

Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public, that my client's **1. Smt. Bharathi** W/o Mr. Devaraj aged about 46 years, 2. **Smt. Geetha** W/o Mr. Rajendran aged about 40 years both are residing at No.110, Banappa Colony, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, Yamalur, Marathahalli, Bangalore-37. Both are absolute joint owner of the property residential building bearing No.47/2C, situated at A.K. Colony, Maduramma Temple Road, Yamalur, Bangalore East Taluk, the description of the same is morefully given in the schedule hereunder.

My client has lost/misplaced the original deed/ **"SALE DEED"** dated 29.04.2010 executed by Sri. G Venkatesh in favour of Sri. Manjunatha, and said **SALE DEED** was duly registered as Documents No. VRT-1-00687/2010-11. Book No.1, CD No. VRTD70, in the office of Sub-Registrar Varthur, Bangalore urban District.

With regard to misplaced/lost above said registered Original **SALE DEED**, my clients have lodged complaint before the Karnataka State Police, under section 155 CRPC lost article report, on 03.03.2023 and same was registered as complaint Lost Report No. 0611140/2023.

In view of the above, it is hereby called upon the general public that the above said Original Registered **SALE DEED** is not available and to inform the general public with regard to non-availability of the document present notice is given.

It is hereby requested to the general public that, if anybody comes across with the above said original sale deed document, the same may be returned to the undersigned and also the General Public is hereby informed that anybody dealing with the said property based on the lost/misplaced document in any manner whatsoever, will be doing so, at their own cost, risk and liabilities and my client will not be held responsible in any manner for any such transactions.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the Peace and parcel of land together with the residential building standing thereon bearing No. 47/2C, Situated at A.K Colony, Maduramma Temple Road, Yamalur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk., Corporation Ward No. 88, Bangalore, measuring East to West 26.5' + 29/2. Feet and North to South 44+4.5 Feet, totally measuring 1256 Sq.ft along with residential building, Ground, First, Second, Third Floor and terrace area totally measuring abouttt 2500 Sqft, consisting of 8 premises with RCC roof, Solid Brick vitrified tile, Wooden shutter doors, and windows. Flooring and bounded on the:

East by : Property belonging to Ramakrishna Gowda
West by : Road
North by : Yellappa's Property
South by : Property belonging to M G Venkatesh

Sri. Maruthi Gowda. M S, B.A., LL.B, ADVOCATE
Address: EWS No.16/2, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, 2nd Stage, KHB (A.D. Halli), Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore - 560079.
Ph: (0): 23145665 Mobile: 98865 69702
E-mail: advocatesgsn@gmail.com

Did climate change really make U.P.'s deadly heatwave twice as likely?

A deadly heatwave over Uttar Pradesh recently claimed as many as 100 lives. There were subsequently several reports saying that according to a model called the 'Climate Shift Index', developed by a reputable U.S. nonprofit called Climate Central, this heatwave was made twice as likely by climate change

Raghu Murtugudde

A deadly heatwave over Uttar Pradesh recently claimed as many as 100 lives. There were subsequently several reports saying that according to a model called the 'Climate Shift Index' (CSI), developed by a reputed U.S. nonprofit called Climate Central, this heatwave was made twice as likely by climate change.

What is the scientific confidence level in such local attribution of individual weather events to climate change? And what are the consequences of such claims?

Climate change and weather

An exercise to determine climate change's influence on a weather event involves two exercises: detection and attribution. A heatwave is defined based on the normal temperature of a region; 'normal' in turn is defined based on long-term historical data. The temperatures in Uttar Pradesh during the June 14-16 period met the definition of a heatwave. Put another way, a heatwave was definitely *detected*. Next, in terms of *attribution*, the CSI implies that the heatwave was made twice as likely due to global warming.

Several scientific and socioeconomic questions arise with such proclamations from trusted climate organisations.

Equally important, the experts who developed methods to rapidly compute the extent to which a weather event can be attributed to climate change have set out caveats and shortcomings -- and these tend to get lost when the impact of climate change on a particular event is reported to the general public in a context-agnostic manner.

Scientifically speaking, an attribution exercise compares real conditions that have occurred with a so-called counterfactual world - a hypothetical world where climate change has not occurred. Scientists create counterfactual worlds for these weather events using historical weather data and model simulations. The observations are constrained by limitations and the models are never accurate. Setting them aside, we must also take a fuller view of attributions and their associated claims.According to Climate Central, its CSI is "grounded" in work described in a paper published in June 2022.

Model accuracy

Experts developed rapid attribution methods to help with policies, climate adaptation, and for health-impact studies. On the other hand, the outcomes of heatwaves and such extreme weather events are related to the vulnerability of the population exposed to the hazard, which attributions must account for - but they don't.

Women rest under a tree in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. REUTERS

Attributions also do not account for the confluence of multiple natural weather conditions as well as human decisions that led to a heatwave being so deadly. (The most dire consequence of natural hazards often tends to be the product of too little attention being paid to early warnings that may already have been issued.) Our historic analysis of temperatures allows us to say, with high confidence, that in the past few decades, heatwaves have been getting worse over many parts of India even as other parts of the country appear to be cooling. On the other hand, our confidence in the changes in extreme rainfall events is not as high. This is partly due to the smaller spatial scales at which rainfall events happen and their ability to change at shorter timescales.

Some of the low-confidence in historic changes is also related to a lack of reliable data with sufficient spatial and temporal coverage, even though India has some of the best rainfall data among the world's countries. Poor data coverage in turn affects the counterfactual world built by combining the sparse data and imperfect models. Ultimately, This is how the inferred impact of climate change on a particular weather event can be erroneous. In fact, we must accept that there is really no way to scientifically ensure the accuracy of such attributions.

> We must accept that there is really no way to scientifically ensure the accuracy of such attributions

In this context, we need to ask some key science questions. A rather unique set-up of events -- including warming of the northern Indian Ocean from January onwards and the cyclones and typhoons during May and June -- have disrupted the normal march of the southwest monsoon this year. Also playing out in the background is the world's transition from a La Niña winter in 2022-2023 to the emerging El Niño summer of 2023.

These events also underscore the fact that natural variability -- i.e. natural variations in the climate -- always adds to or subtracts from the effects of climate change at the local level. For example, South India can have its hottest summer and in the same season Chennai can have its coolest day in June.

Climate change also affects the natural variability itself. The number and intensities of tropical cyclones as well as the El Niños and the La Niñas are also likely being affected by climate change. But the models do not agree on some of these estimates; the models used for attributions don't even simulate cyclones!

The U.P. heatwave

The attribution approach that the CSI has taken does not consider such local weather systems. Studies have found that even irrigation can affect heatwaves, but neither the attribution data nor the models in the Uttar Pradesh case represent such effects.This brings us to the socioeconomic and sociopolitical implications of claims that climate change made the heatwave X-times more likely. What is the longer-term context? Should farmers worry about what it means for the rest of the agricultural season? Should people start moving? Should businesses and investors begin to reconsider their plans in the State?

It is naïve to assume that limited indices - which have their purpose in a specific context, in a supplementary capacity - will only impel climate adaptation, to deal with heatwaves, and not have other off-target consequences.

So, we desperately need a 360-degree view of such claims, especially in light of their potential deficiencies.
Event-by-event attribution on a daily timescale is neither possible with sufficient accuracy nor is it practically valuable. It can also divert resources away from other, more worthy efforts, such as improving early-warning systems.

Raghu Murtugudde is a visiting professor at IIT Bombay and an emeritus professor at the University of Maryland.

THEGIST

The experts who developed methods to rapidly compute the extent to which a weather event can be attributed to climate change have set out caveats and shortcomings – and these tend to get lost when the impact of climate change on a particular event is reported to the general public in a context-agnostic manner

Historic analysis of temperatures allows us to say, with high confidence, that in the last few decades, heatwaves have been getting worse over many parts of India even as other parts of the country appear to be cooling

Natural variations in the climate alway adds to or subtracts from the effects of climate change at the local level. For example, South India can have its hottest summer and in the same summer Chennai can have its coolest day in June

BIG SHOT

A reindeer near Ivalo, in Finnish Lapland. Rapidly warming conditions in the Arctic and the loss of sea ice caused by climate change are driving a steep decline in biodiversity, including plants, fungi, and lichen. But a new study in *Science* found that caribou and muskoxen help to reduce the rate of loss by roughly half, suggesting that large herbivores have an under-recognised role in preserving ecosystems. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Radio telescopes: probing space

Telescopes are essential tools in every astronomer's repertoire. A radio telescope is a telescope that helps scientists 'see' the universe using radio waves (1 mm to more than 10,000 km in wavelength). These telescopes collect faint radio waves coming from deep space, and with the help of other equipment focus and amplify them for scientific study.

Radio telescopes can detect radio waves from a number of celestial objects, such as stars, galaxies, and black holes. They are ground-based, and not in orbit, because they are usually quite large. This is because the size of the antenna – the dish-like structure that detects the waves – is proportional to the wavelength being tracked.

In fact, the most common radio telescopes have a parabolic dish antenna. Due to its curved shape, the radio waves hitting the dish bounce to a point called the focus, where a receiver collects them. Dish antennas collect many different wavelengths at once, so scientists often use receivers picking up multiple wavelengths at once.

Because of their large wavelength, radio waves can travel long distances without interruption, making them ideal to catch glimpses of stars behind dust clouds, for example. But the longer they travel, the weaker they get. So telescopes often try to maximise their signal collection area and use amplifiers to increase their strength.

One of the biggest radio telescopes in the world today is the FAST instrument in China, with a 500-metre-wide dish.

A radio telescope scanning the heavens. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Man posing as police officer cheats student of ₹1.3 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Posing as an officer with the narcotics division of the Mumbai police, a man cheated an IISc student of ₹1.3 lakh after threatening to foist a case under the NDPS Act, on Friday.

The fraud came to light when the victim, identified as Parul Yadav, discussed the issue with her friends on the hostel campus and realised that she had been cheated.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case against the unknown individual, charging him under various sections of the IT Act, 2000; efforts are on to track him down through the contact number and bank account, to which the money had been transferred.

Ms. Yadav, in her complaint, said she received a call from a person impersonating a FedX employee. The caller told her that there was a package in her name and it contained illegal items, and it could be a case of identity theft. He informed her that as part of the procedure he had intimated the narcotics division of the Mumbai police, where another person asked her to join a Skype call to record her statement. During the conversation, the accused provided some fake documents from the CBI and the RBI to make her believe that they were policemen. After gaining her confidence, the accused took her bank statement and asked to send money to verify her bank accounts. Trusting the accused, Ms. Yadav transferred ₹1,34,650 to an YES Bank account, ending with the number 5623, in Mumbai. As soon as the transaction was completed, the accused disconnected the call and become incommunicado.

The victim told the police that the accused was impersonating a Mumbai narcotics division officer and threatened her with consequences for the illegal supply of MDMA. She got scared and transferred the money, the victim told the police.

The police probing the case said it was a *modus operandi* used by fraudsters to scare people and extort money. They requested people not to entertain calls from unidentified people and report the matter immediately to 112 for further help.

Pedestrian knocked down by car

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 55-year-old pedestrian was killed after he was knocked down by a car on Dr. Rajkumar Road on Sunday. The deceased, identified as Krishnappa, was crossing the road on a zebra crossing when a car knocked him down and sped away. A severely injured Krishnappa was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared as brought dead.

The Rajajinagar Traffic Police registered a hit-and-run case and with the help of CCTV camera footage from the area, identified the vehicle and arrested the driver.

Man who posted video of assault held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chickballapur district police had to contend with a gory case when they came across a disturbing video of a man slitting the throat of another man and trying to drink his blood. The Kencharlahalli police on Saturday identified and arrested the accused. The victim survived the attack, the police said.

The accused, Vijay, 29, and the victim, Maresh, are both neighbours and work as goods vehicle drivers. Vijay suspected Maresh of having an affair with his wife as he had caught them texting over the phone, police investigation revealed. On June 19, an enraged Vijay took Maresh to an isolated spot at Siddappalli, under the pretext of some work. Vijay's brother John Babu also had accompanied them. There he confronted Maresh about the alleged affair, assaulted him, and slit his throat.

As Maresh was writhing in pain on the ground, Vijay tried to drink the blood from his throat, threatening to kill him, and John Babu was recording the video on his phone.

After an hour of torture, John Babu rushed Maresh to a hospital on the condition that he would not disclose the incident to anyone. However, Vijay uploaded the video of the incident on social media on June 19 with a message that revenge had been taken for the betrayal done to him. The video was noticed by the police, who in turn tracked down the victim, recorded his statement, and later arrested Vijay and John Babu. They have been booked for attempt to murder, criminal intimidation, and under various sections of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

SEQRITE
Cybersecurity Delivered
Rakhe Desh Ke Har
Business Ko Cyber Surakshit
Secure your tomorrow, today.
Future-ready solutions for enterprises of any scale & size
Protection against ransomware attacks and data breaches
Backed by international patents and certifications
Proven-track record of protecting critical infrastructure of the country.
Quick Heal Group
Phone: 1800-212-7377 | info@seqrite.com | www.seqrite.com

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
G20
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
PLEDGE TO
MAKE EVERYDAY
A DRUG-FREE DAY
Observing
26th June - International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
"Stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention"
Here's what you can do to help!
• Show empathy towards drug addicts and their families
• Educate drug addicts about the AIDS / Hepatitis risk
• Raise awareness about impact of stigma and discrimination
• Educate about drug use disorders and rehabilitation
IF YOU COME ACROSS ILLEGAL SALE / USE OF DRUGS DIAL
Namma 112
Karnataka has Zero Tolerance Policy towards Illicit Drug Trafficking
To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem - Is the fundamental duty of every citizen.
Department of Information & Public Relations
KARNATAKA INFORMATION

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान कोषिक्कोड
Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
Globalizing Indian Thought
The Intangibles of School Leadership
The IIM Kozhikode Way!
IIMK Open Management Development Programmes
Leadership Clinic for High Potential School Leaders and Teachers
08-09 September, 2023
Institutional Leadership for School Heads
18-22 September, 2023
STRATEGY & CULTURE
neeti-reeti
SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY
tantra pranali
VISIONARY LEADERSHIP
darshan
COMMUNICATION
sanchar
MANAGING STAKEHOLDERS
prabandhan
WHY CHOOSE IIMK?
• 3rd in India: NIRF 2023: Management Category
• 3rd among all IIMs and 72nd globally - Financial Times Ranking (Open enrolment programme) 2023
• 2nd - Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021 (CFIs in Non-Technical Category)
• 16+ in Asia QS Executive MBA World Rankings 2021
• Hassle-free, Travel-less, Unique Learning Experience Delivered through Dynamic Technology Interface to Enhance Career Outcomes
• Tailor-made Management Development Programmes (MDPs) for Corporates, Business Houses, PSUs & Industries
• State-of-the-art Infrastructure with 100+ World Class Faculty
• 20+ Years of Delivering MDPs | 1200+ Programmes | 41000+ Participants | 150+ Organisations (including several Fortune 500 companies)
"Leaders are harvesters of hope and traders in trust. Leaders create cultures within institutions that foster change and innovation. Leadership is the process of creating momentum that helps institutions to sustain beyond timeliness. Clarity of thought and the ability to communicate big ideas to the larger organization and to be able to harness technology and innovative systems for the future are the hallmarks of transformational leadership.
At IIM Kozhikode we dreamt of 2047 as the year that India will reclaim her legitimate role as vishwaguru, the thought leader of the world. Together let us usher in a new era of institutional leadership in Indian schools."
Debashis Chatterjee
Prof. Debashis Chatterjee
Director, IIM Kozhikode
Explore and Enrol - IIM Kozhikode MDPs
Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
IIMK Campus P. O, Kozhikode, Kerala (India), PIN - 673 570
Phone: +91-495-2809557 | 2809560 | 8075929225 (Ms. Lakshmi)
www.iimk.ac.in
IIMKKozhikode
IIMKozhikodeYT
IIMKozhikode
iimkozhikode

Lack of scientifically designed garbage transfer stations puts workers and residents in peril

Several transfer stations see waste left behind for days resulting in rot, stench, and rodent menace from waste leachate as the corporation remains slow in its action

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Sharat (name changed), a waste picker from North Bengaluru, sets off around 6.30 a.m. in his auto tipper for door-to-door waste collection every morning. The wet waste is taken to a nearby spot along a busy road adjoining a defence property, where he and his helper manually transfer it from the tipper to the compactor trucks.

As the compaction happens, leachate from the waste seeps down onto the road. A portion of the road and the footpath are now covered in it.

Sharat and other workers finish their work by around noon and leave, but as the day progresses people who pass by throw their garbage bags onto the footpath.

The metamorphosis of transfer stations into blackspots has been a common occurrence across the city. Often seen along roadsides, above footpaths, and under flyovers, they continue to add to the woes of garbage workers as well as residents.

Several wards have been grappling with debris accumulating at transfer stations. MOHIT GARG

In Doddanekundi ward, the transfer of waste happens on the side of Alpine Eco Road. MOHIT GARG

The absence of ramps, and the lack of manpower to clean the site add to the problem of filth transfer.

The transfer station near the Cantonment Railway Station. SHILPA ELIZABETH

No infrastructure

"It would have been good if there were some arrangements like a shed where the transfer happens. It would help to do the transfer out of sight and that would probably help to avoid this situation," Sharat says.

Several transfer stations see waste left behind for days resulting in rot, stench and rodent menace. Animals tugging at the garbage lying around is a common scene at most transfer stations.

When affected residents complain, the workers move the operations to other locations within the ward. With no permanent fix in sight, the same story plays in loops across wards in the city.

"Transfer stations should have proper infrastructure like a shed and a ramp," says Pushkara S.V. who has been an advisor to several municipalities for efficient solid waste management.

Currently a senior consultant at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), notes that ideally, the primary and secondary collection vehicles should be present at the transfer station at the same time. However, when the secondary collection vehicles run late, the auto tippers dump the waste there expecting that the truck workers would clear it.

"The absence of ramps which would aid the vehicles to easily shift the waste and the lack of manpower to clean the site after the transfer adds to the problem," says Mr. Pushkara.

Can't blame residents

After the delimitation exercise in 2022, Bengaluru currently has 243 wards. While there were plans to build 50 mini transfer stations across these wards earlier, only a few more than 20 have been built so far.

This has resulted in the transfer of waste happening in public areas.

"We are struggling on all ends of the solid waste management spectrum due to the absence of adequate infrastructure. There are black spots all across the city and we can't blame the waste pickers. They have not been given the necessary infrastructure," points out Anjali Saini, a civic activist and volunteer with Whitefield Rising.

"We can't blame the residents too. If your idea of a transfer station is just a piece of land then nobody is going to have it next to their home. So, it's a chicken and egg situation now," says Ms. Saini.

Spillage of waste

As per the contract between the BBMP and the vendors, the transfer of waste from the tipper to the truck should be done without spillage of waste. Scientific construction of a transfer station would involve a ramp which would facilitate the auto to tip all the waste into the compactor without human intervention.

However, the absence of this, forces workers to pull out the waste using their hands, exposing themselves to the waste and resulting in spillage.

Ms. Saini points out that several wards across the city have been grappling with the same problem of debris piling at transfer stations for years. "When the new Varthur bridge was constructed, they started using the old road as a transfer station," she says.

Rodents and reptiles

The residents of Doddanekundi ward had high hopes, but all work came to a grinding halt early this year due to an ongoing court case on the land. Due to this, the waste transfer continues to happen on the nearby Alpine Eco Road, despite the shed and other facilities being ready.

"We have been suffering for the past seven years," says Mr. Garg. "The quantum of waste is a lot. There are about 40 tippers and six compactors doing the transfer on the road. The smell from it surrounds our apartments and the leachate contaminates the water."

Dipen, another resident of the same ward, adds to it pointing out that the site is located close to a school.

"Whenever someone complains, they will move to another location. They will use any road in this area for transfer purposes. This has led to an increase in the number of rats, and apartments nearby are spotting snakes within the compounds now," he says.

What's the solution?

While the absence of transfer stations continues to bother the workers as well as residents, authorities say there are no plans to build more mini transfer stations, instead, they would be looking at larger transfer stations which can handle 150-200 tons per day.

"Ideally there should be one such large transfer station in each constituency. Presently, we are seeking funds from Swachh Bharat for the same as we don't have enough funds for taking up such big works," says Basavaraj Kabade, chief engineer, SWD.

He notes that the existing mini transfer stations will continue to operate. "We have identified garbage vulnerable points and are making barricades for transfers to happen under flyovers and bridges as a temporary solution."

However, according to Mr. Pushkara, larger transfer stations may not be an efficient solution. Currently, every ward has one transfer station or a designated spot for doing the transfer.

The primary collection vehicles go on two rounds of door-to-door collection, and after each round, they travel to these sites which takes them 5-10 minutes.

"Larger transfer stations would mean the auto tippers will have to travel long distances and a lot of time will be wasted in to and fro travel. And that means a less efficient system," Mr. Pushkara says.

One of the solutions deployed by some cities is fitting the trucks with hook lift loaders. A compactor would always be present at the transfer station to which the waste would be transferred from the tipper.

When the truck arrives, it uses the hook lift to load the compactor onto its platform and leave another empty compactor in place of it at the transfer station.

While this eliminates the need for the auto tipper to wait or dump the waste onto the ground, Mr. Pushkara notes that it may not be feasible for BBMP to change the entire infrastructure now.

What is practical?

"A practical solution would involve building state of the art closed transfer station, providing ramp structure for easier tipping with less spillage, ensuring the availability of compactors to receive waste from the auto tippers, and ensuring daily cleaning of transfer stations," he suggests.

Menstrual health and hygiene campaign launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

UNESCO India and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham came together to launch a campaign aimed at raising awareness about Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management (MHHM) among women including young girls attending school.

Titled "SpotlightRed", the campaign introduces five teaching-learning modules on MHHM in different thematic areas (Children and Young Adults, Teachers and Educators, Gender Empowerment, Persons with Disabilities, and Well-being through Nutrition), said a release.

UNESCO, which has partnered with Procter and Gamble, has also brought out a national survey and gap analysis report on MHHM under the #KeepGirlsinSchool campaign. The report revealed that in poor urban areas, 50% of adolescent girls (aged 15 to 19) lack access to hygienic methods for managing their periods. However, economically developed states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the union territory of Delhi exhibited a higher adoption rate of hygienic methods, according to the release.

What does 'information' really mean?

Janaki Srinivasan's new book talks about information focused on social change and development in India

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

"I was trying to understand what the term information brought to different sorts of initiatives that saw themselves as information focused and focused on social change and development," says Janaki Srinivasan, whose book *The Political Lives of Information: Information and the Production of Development in India* seeks to answer this question.

"There is a sort of intrinsic value attached to information," she says, in a recent conversation with Aditi Surie, Senior Consultant, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Academics and Research at the IIHS, Bengaluru City Campus.

She points out that even though we question technocratic visions, we don't question our faith in information much.

"What I tried to do in this book is to denaturalize this kind of understanding of information."

Aditi Surie in conversation with Janaki Srinivasan.

Three cases

Through a detailed examination of three specific cases – the circulation of price information on mobile phones in a fish market in Kerala, government information in computer kiosks operated by a nonprofit in Puducherry, and a political campaign demanding a right to information in Rajasthan – Ms. Srinivasan argues that information does not exist in isolation but is "embedded in social materials and practices ... intertwined with the rest of life."

This is Ms. Srinivasan's first book, the seeds of which were planted a decade or so ago, around the time she started researching how village computer centres worked in different parts of Tamil Nadu back in 2004.

"I was looking at the process of setting it up, who was using it, what barriers came up and so on," says Ms. Srinivasan, an associate professor at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB).

"By doing that I also became immersed in the larger global community called Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD)," says Ms. Srinivasan, who holds master's degrees in physics and information technology but admits to becoming "way more interested in how people used technology rather than building the technology."

At Berkley

Part of *The Political Lives of Information: Information and the Production of Development in India*, stemmed from her PhD research at "A strange entity called the School of Information at Berkley," she says.

"It allowed me to take courses from all over the spectrum, and I think development studies and the political economy of development is something I became very interested in," says Ms. Srinivasan. adding that she brings this perspective to her everything she studies.

Indeed, many of these perspectives are deeply embedded in this book, too. "Technology is seen as a panacea to fix many issues and has been going wrong.

Ms. Srinivasan's book is one of those comprehensive texts to see that the outcome of these ideas does not yield the results for everyone," says Ms. Suri, at the event, pointing out that Ms. Srinivasan's research is backed by exhaustive experiences, ethnographic detail, archival work and participant observation. "I learnt so much reading this book."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 26, 1973

Anti-price rise agitation politically motivated: Urs

BANGALORE, June 25: The Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, to-day, characterized the anti-price rise agitation and the proposed Bangalore bundh on June 30 as politically motivated.

'Communists', the Chief Minister remarked when asked at a press conference to-day to elaborate on how the agitation was politically-motivated.

The theme of the press conference was the anti-price rise agitation two days ago by Labour led by the employees of the Central Government Industrial undertakings in the city as a prelude to the proposed Bangalore bundh on June 30.

The Chief Minister assailed the ground on which the sponsors of the agitation based their case on the spiralling prices.

Mr. Urs remarked that the views held by these agitators appeared to be contrary to the world trends as assessed by all the Governments in our country and abroad.

Giri Asks Governments to Ensure Proper Use of Harijan Funds

BANGALORE, June 25: The President, Mr. V. V. Giri, to-day suggested to State Governments to set up committees to see that the funds earmarked for Harijan welfare were properly utilized. Laying the foundation for a new hostel building for Scheduled Castes college students on Primrose Road here, Mr. Giri gave a call to fight untouchability "with all the resources at our command", so that Harijans and other backward communities might feel that they were partners in the progress and prosperity of the nation.

EDUCATIONPLUS

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rhodes Scholarships for India
An initiative of the Rhodes Trust.
Eligibility: Open to Indian students who hold a valid passport or equivalent proof of citizenship and meet the specified age and academic requirements, and must have applied for a PG course at the University of Oxford.
Rewards: Fully-funded scholarship
Application mode: Online
Deadline: August 1
www.b4s.in/edge/TRSI4

Coal India Limited EWS Scholarship
Coal India Limited to students aims to help meritorious BPL students pursue quality professional education and nurture successful careers.
Eligibility: Open to students who are in the BPL category and are 25 years as of November 1 of the current academic session and are pursuing a full-time degree in Engineering in Mining, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, Computer IT, Environment, Electronics and Telecommunications, and Medical disciplines in IITs, NITs and government-recognised engineering and medical colleges.
Rewards: Total course fee for the entire course duration
Application mode: Through post only: Chief General Manager (Welfare), Coal India Limited, Coal Bhawan, 10, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata - 700001 Phone Number: (033)-22488099 Fax: (033)-22313875/22135778
Deadline: April 15, 2024
www.b4s.in/edge/EWST6

Esri India M.Tech Scholarship Programme
An opportunity offered by Esri India.
Eligibility: Open to Indian applicants who are 18 years and are at the beginning of the second year of an M.Tech./ M.Sc. in Geoinformatics or a course that involves remote sensing/ GIS/ spatial modelling/ spatial analysis/ digital image processing for GIS and related subjects.
Rewards: ₹1 lakh per student per year
Application mode: Email at gis.education@esri.in
Deadline: July 10
www.b4s.in/edge/GISU1

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

In Brief

REVA University will introduce Adaptive Learning 2023 from this academic year and will encourage courses in areas such as Film Studies, Athlete Wellness programmes, Sports Science, Agriculture Engineering and Design. The institution is also offering a student-support service through Manodhaara- REVA Centre for Well-being. Through REVA NEST, it aims to build an entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The **Department of Computer Science at CHRIST (Deemed to be University)**, Bengaluru, organised a workshop on 'Technology for Peace', along with FSL (Field Services and Inter-cultural Learning) India under the project of Erasmus+ Programme. Rakesh Soans, President - FSL India, gave the keynote address.

KAMMAVARI SANGHAM (R) - 1952
ಕಮ್ಮವಾರಿ ಸಂಘಂ ಸಮೂಹ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು
K. S. GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru - 560109

ADMISSIONS OPEN

CAMPUS - I
K. S. INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(Affiliated to VTU, Belagavi & Recognised by AICTE, New Delhi, Accredited by NBA & NAAC)
No.14, Raghuvanahalli, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru - 560 109.
Web : ksit.edu.in | CET Code : E091 | COMED K Code : E068
COURSES OFFERED
B.E • AI & ML • CS & D • CSE (Accredited by NBA) • ECE (Accredited by NBA) • MECH (Accredited by NBA) • CSE (IOT) • CCE
Accredited By

K. S. PRE - UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
(Recognized by Government of Karnataka & Approved by PUE Board)
No.14, Raghuvanahalli, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru - 560 109.
COURSES OFFERED
Web : kspuc.edu.in
PUC SCIENCE (PCMB, PCMCs) COMMERCE (EBACs, SEBA)

CAMPUS - II
K. S. SCHOOL OF ENGG. & MGMT.
(Affiliated to VTU, Belagavi & Recognised by AICTE, New Delhi, Accredited by NAAC)
No.15, Mallasandra, off Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru - 560 109.
Web : kssem.edu.in | CET Code : E203 | COMED K Code : E067 | PGCET Code : B198
COURSES OFFERED
B.E • AI & DS • CSE • CS & BS • ECE • CIVIL • MECH
Accredited By
MBA (HR, FINANCE, MARKETING & BUSINESS ANALYTICS)

K. S. SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
(Affiliated to VTU, Belagavi & Approved by COA)
No.15, Mallasandra, off Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru - 560 109.
Web : kssa.edu.in | CET Code : E250 | COMED K Code : E179
COURSES OFFERED
B.Arch

K. S. POLYTECHNIC
(Approved by DTE, Govt. of Karnataka & AICTE, New Delhi)
No.15, Mallasandra, off Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru - 560 109.
Web : kspolytechnic.edu.in
COURSES OFFERED
DIPLOMA • CSE • ECE • CIVIL • MECH • AUTOMOBILE

KSGI Highlights :
- Run by Kammavari Sangham (R)-1952 and serving the society for the last 7 decades.
- A Multi Activity Non-Profit voluntary service Organization.
- Pioneer in educational services offering value based, High-Quality Technical Education at affordable cost for the last 3 decades.
- Hi-Tech Infrastructure, Experienced and well qualified Teaching Staff, State of the Art Laboratories, Modern Library and Sports / Cultural amenities.
- Ample opportunity for the overall development of our students.
- Excellent Results & University Ranks.
- Guaranteed Placement support to all the students.
- Well Equipped separate Hostel Facilities for Boys & Girls.
- Transportation Facility to all corners of the city.
- Located Adjacent to Vajarahalli Metro Station on Green Line.

For Value Based Quality Education @ affordable fees Join KSGI

For More Information Visit : http://www.ksgi.edu.in Call: 99007 10055

rit RAJALAKSHMI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITES
AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION
PRESENTS

Ai HORIZON
National Conclave on the Effects & Implications of Ai

ENGAGING CONVERSATIONS WITH THOUGHT LEADERS FROM LEADING ORGANISATIONS

tcs virtusa ZOHO wipro TAFE ELCOT Adding value through IT Qualcomm RENAULT NISSAN TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS CENTRE INDIA ZF ASHOK LEYLAND SETS Ford uniphore ICAR NRDC Nxtgig eduverse

AND MANY MORE...

SCAN TO REQUEST FOR A SEAT
DATE : 01 JULY 2023
TIME : 9.30 AM TO 4.00 PM
VENUE : HILTON
Rajalakshmi Institutions

Excellent Performance by
SHAHEENIANS in NEET - 2023

ADARSH
H.T. No. 2713080142
NEET Marks 696 | AIR Rank 368

SHAHEEN GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

India's best institute stands top again

All India Rank 567 | NEET Marks 695 | Sheema Firdous | Ht. No. 3102050097
All India Rank 942 | NEET Marks 687 | Aditya | Ht. No. 2713010810
NEET Marks 685 | All India Rank 1193 | Owais Mohd | H.T. No. 2713110255
NEET Marks 685 | All India Rank 1195 | Zahid Akmal | H.T. No. 2713010964
NEET Marks 685 | All India Rank 1264 | Abhishek | H.T. No. 2713110054

NEET Marks 682 | Sameer Kumar Jena | Ht. No. 230410091466
NEET Marks 680 | Nihal Halange | Ht. No. 230410545600
NEET Marks 680 | Mirza Saifullha Baig | Ht. No. 230410997135
DELHI BRANCH | NEET Marks 676 | Tahseen Shams | Ht. No. 230410834262
MUMBAI BRANCH | NEET Marks 675 | Shaikh Sadiya S | Ht. No. 3114020021
NEET Marks 671 | Amogh Bhande | Ht. No. 230410397343
NEET Marks 670 | Mohammed Waddo | Ht. No. 230411258159
AURANGABAD BRANCH | NEET Marks 670 | Hafsah Darbar | Ht. No. 230412056203
AURANGABAD BRANCH | NEET Marks 670 | Maheen Shaikh | Ht. No. 230410809643
DELHI BRANCH | NEET Marks 667 | Rashida Tarannum | Ht. No. 230411278760
NEET Marks 665 | Vinay Ghale | Ht. No. 230410197377
NEET Marks 663 | Sarah Yameen | Ht. No. 230410724701
NEET Marks 661 | Shaikh Aatif | Ht. No. 230410838928
NEET Marks 661 | Ifrah Tahseen | Ht. No. 230410416897
NEET Marks 660 | Md Sufiyan Atiq | Ht. No. 230410586826
MALEGAON BRANCH | NEET Marks 655 | Ansari Kulsum Ejaz | Ht. No. 230410356567
MALEGAON BRANCH | NEET Marks 655 | Ansari Aaisha Siddiqua | Ht. No. 230410386952
NEET Marks 657 | Syed Abdul Hasheer | Ht. No. 230411139401
NEET Marks 657 | Saim Rayyan | Ht. No. 230411041219
NEET Marks 655 | Md Farooq | Ht. No. 230411063171
NEET Marks 654 | Soham Pasarge | Ht. No. 230410052582
DELHI BRANCH | NEET Marks 652 | Samreen Fatima | Ht. No. 230411445858
DELHI BRANCH | NEET Marks 651 | Hammad Ali | Ht. No. 230410945367
NEET Marks 650 | Rajesh | Ht. No. 230411240711
BHOPAL BRANCH | NEET Marks 650 | Kashif Kamal | Ht. No. 230410550154

600+ Marks secured by 128+ Students. NEET 2023
EXPECTED 500+ MBBS SEATS

Website: shaheengroup.org
Toll Free: 1800 121 6235
Head Office
Shaheen Nagar, BIDAR - 585403.

BHEEMANNA KHANDRE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BHALKI – 585328, Dist.: Bidar (Karnataka), Tel: 08484-262288
(Approved by AICTE New Delhi; Sanctioned by Govt. of Karnataka, affiliated to VTU Belagavi and Accredited by IE(I)
Website : www.bkitbhalki.org e-mail: bkitbhalki@gmail.com

41 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
CET CODE : E044

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR THE YEAR 2023-24

Bachelor of Engineering (BE) in
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Mechanical Engg.
- Electronics & Communication Engg.
- Computer Science & Engg.
- Computer Science & Engg. (AI&ML)
- Computer Science & Engg. (Data Science)
- Computer Science & Engg. (Cyber Security)

PG COURSE IN
MASTER OF COMPUTER APPLICATION

Master of Technology (M.Tech.) in
- GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING
- COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGG.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR BE COURSES
Passed in PUC, HSC/ 10+2 with minimum 45% aggregate marks in Physics, Mathematics alongwith Chemistry/ Biology/Electronics/Computer Science/Bio-technology and pass in English as one of the subjects

FOR DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT : Vice Principal - 9448578338, Sri Umakant M - 9449661130, Sri Vijay Kumar B. - 9448459916, Smt. Sangeeta Swamy - 9834514400, Sri Shivaraj Biradar - 9480757372

Er. Eshwar Khandre MLA
Chairman SVES, Bhalki & KPCC Working President
Dr. N.M. Biradar
Principal

CITYBEATS

Exquisite art

Kalasrishti presents 'Soulful Strokes,' a painting exhibition from June 22 to 28 at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. Showcasing 150 artworks by 30 artists from India, this curated event by Barnali Ray is displayed in galleries 1 and 2. Inauguration by Sri Lakshmipathy Babu at 4pm on June 22. Contact: 9632169234.

Vachanas and more

Mantapa, a dynamic band featuring Supriya Raghunandan, Akshada Krishnan, and SR Ramakrishna, presents a unique fusion of Vachana (a form of Kannada poetry) and contemporary music. Combining folk energy with jazzy vibes, they will perform at Courtyard Koota on June 25 from 6:30pm to 8pm. Tickets at courtyardkoota.com

Music in the morning

Join Ranjani Vasuki for a pleasant, early morning concert with Bhajans, Devaranamas, and Kritis. Experience the magic of Indian classical music, with performances in Telugu, Kannada and Hindi. On July 2 at 7:30am, at Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre. Suitable for ages 8 and above. Tickets on bookmyshow.comCITYbeats

Filter Coffee is about the need for validation on social media

The single, which dropped on all major platforms last week, reflects the Bengaluru-based singer Aditi Ramesh's head space

Preeti Zachariah

"Filter coffer-...better than cappuccino...I don't want Americano-...Give me that South Indian flavour," croons Aditi Ramesh in her new single 'Filter Coffee', a song that manages to be both frothy and intense, exactly like a perfectly brewed cup of her favourite beverage.

"The lyrics are very reflective of where I am in my head," she says, talking about the song that centres around the constant need for validation, and attention, especially on social media.

"We are so unsure of ourselves and what we do," she says, pointing out that this hunger for external recognition often leads to a cycle of anxiety. When she drinks a cup of filter coffee, however, she is able to shut out all those thoughts, something she reiterates in this song.

"It feels like a hug. I put a pause on those other things and know I am going to be fine," says the Bengaluru-based musician.

This is Ramesh's first release after her 2021 song, 'Shakti', a clever take on the need for real equality and the problem with tokenism.

"It is the biggest gap between releases that I have had," says Ramesh, adding that though she did not release anything in 2022, she has written more songs than ever before in this one-and-a-half-year-long hiatus, songs that are very different from the sort of songs that she has released before.

"I think it was a year of exploring my sound and branching out into many different types of music," she says. "I am in that phase where I know each song is going to surprise people."

In stops and starts

Aditi Ramesh's very first musical influence was the music that her parents played at home in the suburban American neighbourhood in Buffalo, NY she grew up: Carnatic and old film songs. While nobody in her family was particularly musical-- "except an aunt who sings well but isn't trained"—her parents noticed her interest in it and put her in classes.

Ramesh, who is also a trained Carnatic vocalist, started piano lessons at the age of 5, continuing with them till her 15th birthday. Her induction into Carnatic music was not so quite so structured. "Erratic" she admits, with a laugh. "I would learn for a couple of years and then quit," says Ramesh.

> It has a year of exploring my sound and branching out into many different types of music.
>
> **ADITI RAMESH**
> Singer

Her early, somewhat uncomfortable relationship with Carnatic music has considerably shaped the way she approaches music today with her songs often drawing from both Carnatic and various Western traditions.

"When I first started making music, I felt the need to put that (Carnatic music) in because I felt that I finally understood its value," she says, pointing out that the building blocks of all forms of music are the same. "I really wanted to put it in a way that was accessible to everyone," adds Ramesh, whose family moved back to Bengaluru, India when she was fifteen.

The transition was hard, she admits, and though she settled down eventually, going on to attend law school at NALSAR, Hyderabad, life soon took over and the music slowly faded out. "I didn't touch a piano for 10 years," she says. "Maybe, once a year, I'd sing a couple of songs...that was it."

Instead, she listened and listened a lot, introducing herself to more and more genres of music – the blues, a little bit of jazz, reggae, afro, world music and the folk singers of the 1960s and 70s, all of which would later influence her own music. "I think it is fun when you have so many influences, and they all come together to create something inspired by all these things but are uniquely you," she says.

Aditi Ramesh

An organic evolution

"Everyone has something that comes easily to them, and for me that was music," believes Ramesh, who started desperately missing her music when she moved to Mumbai in 2014, after graduation, to work as a corporate lawyer. "I wasn't meant to work in a place like that. I didn't fit in"

Within three years, she had quit corporate law, choosing instead to take up a lower-paying day job that was less demanding and would give her more time for her music. "I knew nothing about the industry and had no plan," she says. "I just decided to be a musician."

Since her foray into professional music in 2017 or so, Ramesh has garnered a number of great gigs, going on to play at festivals like the Nh7 Weekender, Vh1 Supersonic, Mood Indigo and the Echoes of Earth festival. "It all happened so organically, "says Ramesh, who released her first EP 'Autocorrect' that same year, which was listed as one of the top 10 EPs of 2017 by Rolling Stone India. She released another 'Leftovers' in 2019, chasing that up with her soothing ode to covid-induced anxiety 'Heal', her quirky single, 'Sambar Soul' in 2020 and the aforesaid-mentioned 'Shakti' the following year. "All my music is a function of where I am in life," admits Ramesh, who moved back to Bengaluru during the pandemic.

Destiny's Child A still from the play *God's Will* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Revealing realities

Staff Reporter

The first line of the synopsis of Theatre Nisha's play, *God's Will*, both intrigues and disturbs at once. It reads: "A girl dies after she is molested and pushed out of a moving bus along with her mother."

God's Will - a thought-provoking play that delves into the sensitive subject of sexual assault and its far-reaching consequences - will be staged at Ranga Shankara on July 2. Inspired by newspaper reports of a real-life incident, the play delves into the repercussions faced by the marginalised and downtrodden, exposing their vulnerability and resilience.

Written by V Balakrishnan, an accomplished playwright and director, *God's Will* premiered in Chennai in July 2022 and received critical acclaim, winning the Sultan Padamsee Playwrighting Award. Balakrishnan, the founder and artistic director of Theatre Nisha, has an impressive portfolio with over 130 plays staged under his banner. His talent has been recognised with prestigious accolades, including the Charles Wallace Scholarship for an International Residency with the Royal Court Theatre in London and the Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching. He is a multi-talented artist who has acted in numerous productions and written several scripts.

God's Will is about the marginalised and exposes their vulnerabilities and their resilience

The play's cast includes Janani Narasimhan, Shakthi, Preethi Bharadwaj, Ganapathy Murugesan, Karthik Gowrisankar, Neeharika, Shivangi Singh, and Meera Sitaraman. Meera, Aparna Kumar, and Balakrishnan form the production crew. The music, composed by Srivaralaxmi Maya and Preethi Bharadwaj, promises to enhance the overall experience of the play.

The play is performed in English and is recommended for audiences aged 16 and above. With a runtime of 1 hour and 20 minutes, the production promises a compelling and impactful experience.

Tickets on bookmyshow.com

A bridge between traditional and digital storytelling

Praveen Sudevan

Growing up in Raebareili, Ranjeet Pratap Singh liked to read as a kid. He started with Hindi comics such as *Chacha Chaudhary*, *Bankelal*, *Nagraj*, *Super Commando Dhruv* and *Bhokal*. (English, he says, was rarely spoken in the district then). He would read over a hundred in a year. Classical and contemporary literature replaced comics post-boyhood. After a point, however, he ran out of Hindi books to read. He was forced to read English. He would crib about it to his friends. "This is not how things should be. I should be able to decide if I want to read Hindi or English books. It should not be due to lack of access and availability," he would tell them. This was sometime in the mid-2000s.

About a decade later, Ranjeet, with some of his friends who would listen to him cribbing, started Pratilipi (which means 'copy' in Sanskrit), a digital storytelling platform where creators can self-publish their works, in Bengaluru. "Think of it as YouTube but for long-form text," he says, "Anybody can come on the platform and publish their stories, novels, poetry, essays, or any other text in 12 different languages. And consumers can read them."

Tall tales Ranjeet Pratap Singh (below) is breaking new ground. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

In an age where the interest in reading is said to be waning, the mere existence of Pratilipi seems remarkable. But Ranjeet disagrees about the decline in reading. "It is a gross generalisation to say that," he says, "The nature of reading might have changed. Maybe people don't read physical magazines as they used to. But they still read tweets, posts, and things like that. That is still reading. So you need to change your content accordingly."

Since its inception in 2015, Pratilipi, Ranjeet says, has grown steadily. "The number of stories published per day is around 9,000, with over 300,000 stories published in a month. In 2022, a total of 3.6 million stories were published," he adds. Apart from these, Pratilipi also recently acquired IVM Podcasts and Westland Books.

What made a digital storytelling platform take a plunge into publishing books?

Physical books, Ranjeet reckons, are still relevant. For him, however, more than the medium, what matters more are the stories. "Good stories can travel across languages and formats. *Ironman*, for instance, started as an English comic for children in the US. But it has moved from comics to movies to merchandise to theme park attractions. That's what we want to do as well. If a story gets published on Westland, it can be read digitally on pratilipi.com; it can be heard as an audiobook or a comic on Pratilipi Comics; or it can even be made into a film or a web series. The point is to provide an extra medium for the creator and the consumer."

Pratilipi also has a few renowned writers' works on its platform. But Ranjeet says the platform is not just about these well-known names. "Out of our top 40 writers, 39 of them are first-timers. One of our main objectives is to do away with gatekeeping. One person cannot judge what will work and what won't. *Harry Potter* got rejected by almost every single European publication. And you know what it went on to become."

Discover your calling

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I have completed my Bachelor's and Master's in Geography and now want to teach in a school. How do I go about that? What are my other options? Meena

Dear Meena,

You will need to complete a teacher training programme such as a B.Ed. or D.Ed. to teach at a school. You can also appear for the Central/State Teacher Eligibility Test to teach at a government school. Private schools have their own recruitment and selection criteria. Besides teaching, you could get involved in Cartography, Urban Planning, Tourism, Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS), work at NGOs that focus on Environmental Conservation, Disaster Management or Rural Development. You could also apply to government agencies and explore getting into research as an assistant or an associate across research organisations or academic institutions.

I have completed B.Sc. Forestry. What are my options in this field? Archana

Dear Archana,

You can look at pursuing your Master's. Or, you could become a wildlife biologist, and study animal behaviour, ecology, and conservation. You can take the Indian Forest Service exam and work to protect forests and wildlife from human encroachment, illegal activities, and natural disasters. As an environmental consultant, you will have to work with businesses and government agencies and help them comply with environmental regulations.

You could also explore Forest Products Industry, as a production manager, quality control specialist, or sustainability analyst for the production of items such as paper, lumber, and biofuels.

After graduating, I prepared for the Civil Services Exam. Last year, in my first attempt, I couldn't get through the Mains. Though I will attempt the exam again, I want to start a career in journalism. Is a degree in journalism important? Right now, I want to start with content writing, rather than an on-field job, so that I can prepare for the exam as well. Kshitiz

Dear Kshitiz,

A degree in journalism is helpful if you want to pursue a career in the field, but it is not a mandate. You can start your career in journalism with a degree in any other field as long as you have strong writing skills and knowledge of current events. To gain more experience, consider internships at media organisations, newspapers, and TV channels. For content writing, look out for freelance writing jobs on various online platforms such as Upwork, Freelancer, Fiverr, and so on. Also, try to contribute to online publications and blogs. In addition, create your own blog or website to showcase your writing skills and attract potential clients.

I dream of studying abroad but my parents are against it, as I am their only child and they can't afford it. They don't accept when I say financial support can be arranged through banks and education loans. I am forced to compromise and settle for IT or government jobs that I am not interested in. What do I do? Gouthami

Dear Gouthami,

It is hard to pursue your dreams when your family doesn't support you.

While it is important to have an open and honest conversation with your parents about your goals and why this is so important to you, you also need to understand their apprehensions and fears. Please meet a skilled counsellor who can mediate this conversation for you.

In addition to a loan, you can apply for scholarships, grants, and seek admission to colleges and universities where the tuition fees and living expenses are low and student-friendly. Should your parents still not be convinced and see your point of view, look for options in India and explore short-term certificate programmes, internships, and professional stints overseas after course completion. Pursue a career which aligns with your career goals and personality. Don't succumb to pressure and do things you are not interested in.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

Off-Campus Center of
ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education
(Deemed-to-be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade
IBS® ICFAI BUSINESS SCHOOL

ICFAI Business School, Bangalore

BBA (3 years)

Eligibility:
Pass in Class XII or equivalent examination with an aggregate of 50% and above marks (any discipline) with English as medium of instruction.

- Merit Scholarships
- Internships / Incubation
- Mentorship Program

Call: 9980304076; 8123593397; 7019614284

Campus: The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (Off Campus Centre at Bangalore) # 231, Near Check Post, Mysore Road, Kengeri, Bengaluru
Toll Free: 1800 599 0767

ICFAI GROUP
11 Universities | 9 B-Schools | 8 Law Schools | 7 Tech Schools | 3 Decades in Flexible Learning
/IBSBIreUGPrograms /IBSUGPrograms /ibsbangaloreugprograms/ /company/ibs-bangalore-ug-programs

ADMISSIONS OPEN
FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024
APPLY NOW @ www.jssuni.edu.in

JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) MYSURU

NAAC A+ | nirf 34th | 70th in the WORLD | 1st in the INDIA

Dental*
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)

Fellowship
- Psychosexual Medicine
- Pain Medicine
- Neonatology
- Critical Care Medicine

B.Sc. (Allied Health Sciences)
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Medical Imaging Technology
- Anaesthesia & Operation Theatre Technology
- Renal Dialysis Technology
- Respiratory Care Technology
- Cardiac Care Technology
- Perfusion Technology
- Emergency Medicine Technology
- Optometry
- Physician Assistant (CTVS)
- Forensic Sciences
- Medical Genetics & Genomics (Honours)
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT)

M.Sc. / MPH / M.Phil (Biomedical / Medical Sciences)
- Medical Microbiology
- Medical Biochemistry
- Medical Physiology
- Medical Anatomy
- Medical Pharmacology
- Medical Genetics & Genomics
- Echocardiography
- Clinical Psychology
- Forensic Odontology
- Clinical Embryology
- Master of Public Health (MPH)
- M. Phil Psychiatric Social Work
- M. Phil Clinical Psychology

Ph.D.
Medicine / Dentistry / Pharmacy / Management Studies / Life Sciences / Biomedical Sciences

Pharmacy
- B.Pharm
- II B.Pharm (Lateral Entry)
- D Pharm
- B Pharm Practice
- Pharm D
- Pharm D (PB)

M.Pharm
- Pharmaceutics
- Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance
- Regulatory Affairs
- Industrial Pharmacy
- Pharmacy Practice
- Pharmacology
- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Pharmaceutical Analysis
- Pharmacognosy
- Pharmaceutical Biotechnology

*Note : The Schedule for Entrance Test & Counselling is hosted at the Website.

M.Sc. Life Sciences
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Environmental Science
- Geoinformatics
- Nanoscience & Technology
- Nutrition & Dietetics
- Molecular Biology
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Medical Statistics
- Bioinformatics
- Cosmetic Science
- Sports Nutrition & Management
- Biotechnology
- Medical Physics

Diploma in
- Tissue Culture
- Nutraceutical Technology
- Environment, Health & Safety Management

Yoga
- B.Sc. in Yoga
- M.Sc. in Yoga
- Yoga Teachers Course (YTC) (3 months)

B.Sc. Life Sciences
General (3 Years)/ Honours (4 Years)
- Biotechnology
- Microbiology
- Environmental Science
- Food, Nutrition & Dietetics
- Psychology
- Biochemistry

Dental Diploma
- Diploma in Dental Mechatronics
- DORA - Dental Operating Room Assistant

Health System Management Studies
- BBA in Hospital & Health System Management (Honours)
- MBA in Hospital Administration
- MBA in Pharmacy Administration
- MBA in Information Technology

Open Distance Learning
- Diploma in Environment, Health & Safety Management
- Diploma in Tissue Culture
- Certificate Program in Statistical Methods & Research Methodology

Online Learning Programs
- MBA in Hospital Administration
- BBA in Hospital and Health System Management
- B.Sc in Psychology
- Certitifcate Programme in Dental
- Ethics & Jurisprudence

Diploma in
- Pharmacovigilance
- Quality Control
- Bioinformatics
- Regulatory Affairs
- Medical Devices

*NOTE : Guidance will be given for UG Dental (BDS) 2023 admissions. NEET UG 2023 eligible candidates may apply at Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) W : www.mcc.nic.in for online counselling & Seat allotment to JSS Dental College & Hospital, Mysuru.
For more details please email at admissions@jssuni.edu.in

JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH
Sri Shivarathreeshwara Nagar, Bannimantap, Mysuru - 570 015, Karnataka, India. | T: 0821-2548416 / 400 / 014 / +91 99808 41859
E: admissions@jssuni.edu.in | W: www.jssuni.edu.in | FB: www.fb.com/jssuniversity

KBNU
KHAJA BANDANAWAZ UNIVERSITY
EDUCATING HUMANITY
(University established by an Act No.18 of Karnataka State Legislature)
www.kbn.university

Admissions Open
Last Date apply 30th July 2023.

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION (2023 - 24)

Faculty of Medical Sciences

Skill Based Graduate and Post Graduate Courses
M.Sc. Medical Nutrition
M.Sc. Medical Biochemistry | M.Sc. Medical Microbiology
B.Sc. Medical Lab. Technology | B.Sc. Physiotherapy Technology
B.Sc. Magnetic Resonance Imagining Technician
B.Sc. Optometry | B.Sc. Operation Theatre Technology

Post Graduate M.S. Courses Admission as per KEA Schedule
General Surgery | OBG | Ophthalmology | Orthopedics

Post Graduate M.D. Courses Admission as per KEA Schedule
Anatomy | Physiology | Biochemistry | Pharmacology | Pathology
Microbiology | Community Medicine | General Medicine | Pediatrics
Skin and Dermatology(DVL) | Anesthesiology | Radio Diagnosis

Under Graduate Course Admission as per KEA Schedule
MBBS

Faculty of Science

Master of Science
Zoology | Bio Technology | Physics | Chemistry | Mathematics
Food and Nutrition

Faculty of Languages

Doctor of Philosophy
English | Urdu

Master of Arts
English | Urdu

Diploma in Arabic Language

Faculty of Law

Under Graduate Courses
B.A, LLB(Integrated) | L.LB

Faculty of Engineering & Technology

Doctor of Philosophy
Computer Science and Engineering | Applied Physics
Civil Engineering | Mechanical Engineering

Master of Technology (M. Tech.)
Computer Science and Engineering | Structural Engineering
Geoinformatics

Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.)
Aeronautical Engineering | Computer Science and Engineering
Civil Engineering | Electronics & Communication Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

Master of Arts
Mass Communication & Journalism | Sociology

Under Graduate Courses
Bachelor of Arts
Optional English & psychology | Optional English & Sociology|
Psychology & Sociology | Sociology & Optional Hindi | Psychology &
Political Science | Optional English & Political Science | Sociology & Urdu
Bachelor of Science
Physics & Chemistry | Physics & mathematics| Physics & Computer Science
Chemistry & Mathematics | Chemistry & Zoology | Chemistry & Botany
Chemistry & Food & Nutrition | Botany & Zoology | Botany & Biotechnology
Botany & Food and Nutrition | Biotechnology & Food & Nutrition
Biotechnology & Zoology | Zoology & Food and Nutrition
Bachelor of Commerce
B Com Syllabus as per the Syllabus of Khaja Bandanawaz Univeristy
Note : The Admission to B.A | B.Sc. | B.Com is as per NEP

Online application may be downloaded from the website https://www.kbn.univeristy/downloads or offline application form an be obtained from the Admission Cell, Khaja Bandanawaz University Campus, by paying the prescribed fee. Details of the Various Courses, eligibility, faculty etc. can be obtained from the university website.

Administrative Building, Rauza-i Buzurg, Kalaburagi-585104, (Karnataka State)
Tel.: +918472 236041/228540/224591/267657- Cell : 9035122065/9945856301,

GEETHA SHISHU SHIKSHANA SANGHA(R), MYSURU

Educate the girls and empower the nation

GSSS GEETHA SHISHU SHIKSHANA SANGHA (R)
INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY FOR WOMEN
(Affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi. Approved by AICTE New Delhi & Govt. of Karnataka)
KRS ROAD, METAGALLI MYSURU - 570 016 | KARNATAKA | INDIA

NBA Validity : 01.07.2017 - 30.06.2023 B. EEE Branch up to 30.06.2024 Accredited Branches* | Accredited with Grade 'A' NAAC | I-GAUGE GOLD | Recognized Band EXCELLENT

Exclusively for Girls | Merit Scholarship for top 25 CET rank holders

BE CET Code E133
COMEDK Code: E055
On campus Hostel facility
ECE* | CSE* | ISE* | EEE* | AI-ML | AI-DS

MBA PGCET Code B180
With Dual specialization
Marketing | Finance
Human Resource

M.Tech
PGCET Code T934
CSE | DCN

Geetha Shishu Shikshana Sangha(R)
GSSS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE FOR WOMEN
Empowerment to Enrichment
MYSURU
Affiliated to VTU, Belagavi, Approved by Govt. of Karnataka & Council of Architecture, New Delhi
KRS ROAD, METAGALLI MYSURU - 570 016 | KARNATAKA | INDIA

Proposed Architecture College Building

Exclusively for Girls
B.Arch
FIVE YEARS FULL-TIME
CET CODE : E280 | COMEDK : E054 | COA: KA48

GSSS GEETHA SHISHU SHIKSHANA SANGHA (R)
SIMHA SUBBAMAHALAKSHMI FIRST GRADE COLLEGE
(Affiliated to University of Mysore, Mysuru, Recognized by Govt of Karnataka)
KRS ROAD, METAGALLI MYSURU - 570 016 | KARNATAKA | INDIA
CO-EDUCATION

geethashishu.in
Scan here for Placement statistics

gsss-soaw.ac.in

Courses Offered: B.COM | BBA | BCA

SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMMES
- IoT and Python
- Skill Training in - GST
- Agricomm / Insurance and Banking
- Training and Placement Assistance

BE & B.ARCH 725 925 6789 DEGREE 944 878 2121

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The years after which monsoon hit Delhi and Mumbai together

62 years. The last time monsoon covered both cities together was on June 21, 1961, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) informed. While it hit Delhi two days before schedule, its entry into the financial capital was two weeks late, they added. PTI

People affected by the flood in Assam as per the ASDMA

4.07 lakh. People across nine districts including Baksa, Barpeta, Darrang and Dhubri were hit in this year's first wave of floods in the State, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). PTI

The fatalities caused by Russian air strikes in rebel-held Syria

11 people. Russian forces claim that the air strikes were in retaliation to the rebel drone strikes over the past week that killed four civilians. Five civilians were killed and more than 30 were wounded, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. AFP

Online education platform users face issues in last two years

81 In percentage. People surveyed by online survey platform LocalCircles said they faced issues around fee refunds, trust and transparency from edtech platforms. The survey found that 32% users had issues with BYJU'S. PTI

Budget approved by Pakistan's Parliament for FY2024

14.48 trillion rupees. The budget was approved after new taxes were added as a condition of the IMF to release the remaining portion of an already agreed bailout package. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

The India-U.S. deal for 31 MQ-9B drones

What are the capabilities of the soon-to-be procured MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial vehicles? What is the process to be followed for timely delivery?

EXPLAINER

Dinakar Peri

The story so far:

U.S President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed India's plans to procure General Atomics MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial vehicles (UAV), the joint statement issued last week after talks between the two leaders said. This sets the stage for the acquisition of 31 of these armed UAVs, 15 SeaGuardians for the Indian Navy and 16 SkyGuardians – eight each for the Indian Army and Air Force.

What is the cost and the process to be followed?

Giving more details on the nature of purchase, the joint statement said that the MQ-9Bs, which will be assembled in India, will enhance the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities of India's armed forces across domains. "As part of this plan, General Atomics will also establish a Comprehensive Global Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India in support of India's long-term goals to boost indigenous defence capabilities."

The procurement process has commenced with the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh according the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) on June 15, the first step in the process. The deal will be executed through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route of the U.S. government and is expected to take a few months to be concluded.

On this a Ministry of Defence (MoD) statement said the AoN noted the estimated cost of $3,072 million provided by the U.S. government. "However, price will be negotiated once policy approval of the US Government is received. The MoD will compare the acquisition cost with the best price offered by General Atomics (GA) to other countries. The procurement is in progress and would be completed as per the laid down procedure." The price and other terms and conditions of the purchase are yet to be finalised and are subject to negotiations, the MoD statement noted.

An upgrade: The MQ-9B SkyGuardian and, bottom, an aerial shot of the MQ-9B SeaGuardian. GA-ASI

According to a senior MoD official, India is negotiating to increase the indigenous content under the deal. "The current indigenous content proposed is 8-9% while India is hoping it can be increased upto 15-20%. Discussions are underway. General Atomics is positive to it and the U.S. government has to accept it," the official said. General Atomics is in talks with several Indian companies for domestic manufacture of components as part of the deal, officials said. This could expand further to potentially include the manufacture of some electronics, sensor and avionics if the indigenous content goes up.

Detailing the process to be followed, the MoD statement said that under the FMS route, a Letter of Request (LOR) would be sent to the U.S. government where tri-services requirements, details of equipment and terms of the procurement would be included. "Based on the LOR, the U.S. government and the MoD will finalise the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) where details of equipment and terms of the procurement would be negotiated and finalised in accordance with the FMS programme and the price and terms offered by the U.S. Government and General Atomics to other countries", the Ministry detailed. The U.S. Administration will have to notify the U.S. Congress of the sale, expected to be a formality in this case. In the penultimate step, the deal has to be approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security after which the contract will be concluded.

What do the UAV's bring in terms of capability?

The MQ-9B has two variants – the SkyGuardian and the SeaGuardian, its maritime variant. The MQ-9B is designed to fly over the horizon via satellite for up to 40 hours, depending on configuration, in all types of weather and safely integrate into civil airspace, according to its manufacturer. For instance, the SeaGuardian configuration can include a 360-degree surface-search maritime radar, automatic identification system, sonobuoy monitoring system, and sonobuoy dispensers for persistent anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions.

According to General Atomics, the MQ-9B can provide roughly 80% of the capability of a large human-flown maritime patrol aircraft at about 20% of its cost per hour. That makes it much more economical for navies to, for example, send out SeaGuardians to clear big volumes of air or sea and then, if anything of interest is discovered, vector in a human-crewed aircraft to save it the time, cost, and wear that it otherwise might have expended, the company stated. This is the primary reason the Indian Navy is keen on these UAVs as it significantly reduces the wear and tear on manned aircraft, its fleet of 12 P-8I long range maritime patrol aircraft, as well as reduce crew fatigue in keeping an eye over the wide expanse of the Indian Ocean Region and beyond.

For the Army and Air Force, the MQ-9Bs can provide round-the-clock surveillance looking far beyond the borders, for instance on the movement of Chinese military buildup and troop movement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and deep inside. It also seamlessly integrates with other U.S.-origin platforms that India operates, the P-8Is, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, MH-60R multi-role helicopters among others expanding MQ-9B's multi-domain mission set.

What UAVs are already in service?

The Indian Navy has leased two MQ-9As from General Atomics with the maiden flight taking place on November 21, 2020. In their two years of operation till November 2022, they had completed 10,000 flight hours, and "helped the Indian Navy to cover over 14 million square miles of operating area", General Atomics has announced.

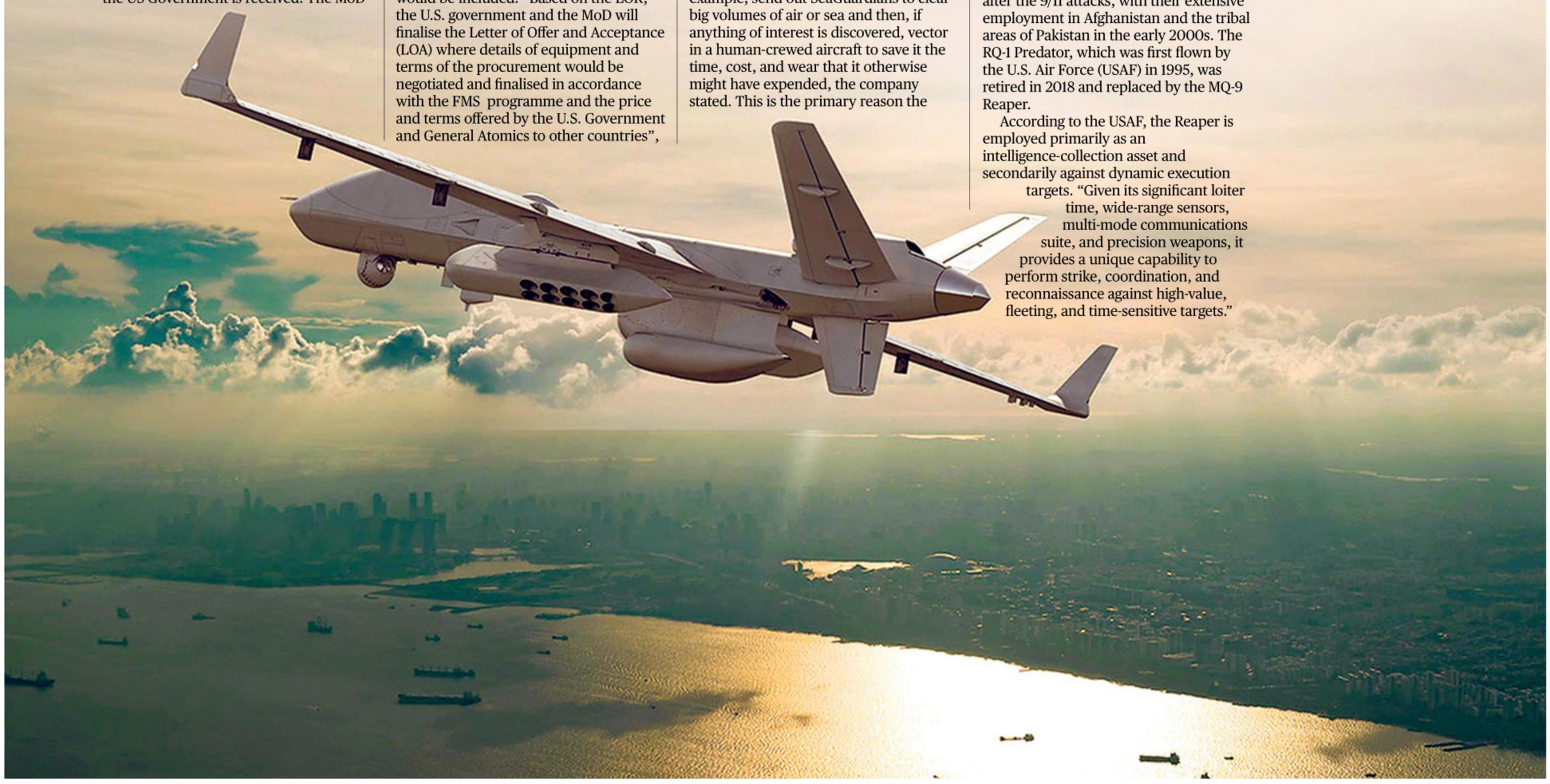
At Aero India in Bengaluru in February 2023, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and General Atomics announced that the turbo-propeller engines which power the MQ-9B will be supported by HAL's engine division for the Indian market. "The companies are looking to formulate a comprehensive engine MRO programme for upcoming HALE Remotely Piloted Aircraft projects," a joint statement said.

The MQ-9 is a significant technological leap from the original RQ-1/MQ-1Predator that heralded the arrival of long endurance armed drones at the end of the twentieth century. Armed with AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, the Predator became a symbol of the U.S. war on terror after the 9/11 attacks, with their extensive employment in Afghanistan and the tribal areas of Pakistan in the early 2000s. The RQ-1 Predator, which was first flown by the U.S. Air Force (USAF) in 1995, was retired in 2018 and replaced by the MQ-9 Reaper.

According to the USAF, the Reaper is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets. "Given its significant loiter time, wide-range sensors, multi-mode communications suite, and precision weapons, it provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination, and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting, and time-sensitive targets."

THE GIST

- U.S President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed India's plans to procure General Atomics MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial vehicles (UAV), the joint statement issued last week after talks between the two leaders said.
- According to a senior MoD official, India is negotiating to increase the indigenous content under the deal. "The current indigenous content proposed is 8-9% while India is hoping it can be increased upto 15-20%."
- The MQ-9B has two variants — the SkyGuardian and the SeaGuardian, its maritime variant. The MQ-9B is designed to fly over the horizon via satellite for up to 40 hours, depending on configuration.



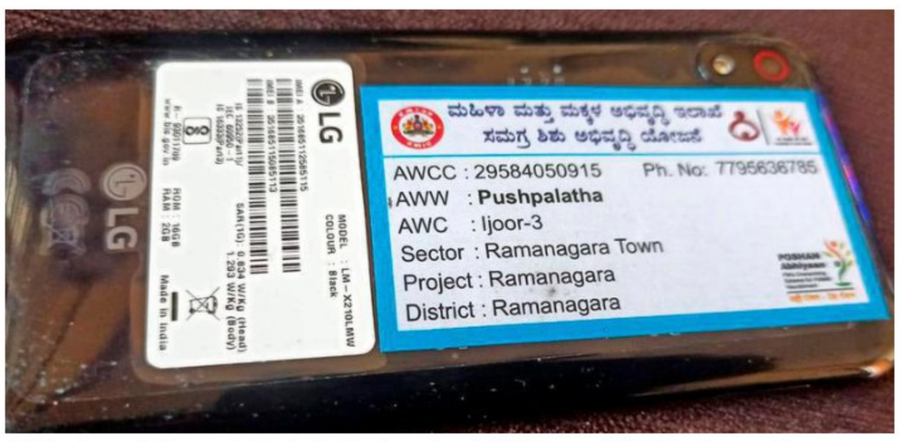
Anganwadi workers on the ground say old, outdated phones hindering surveys; demand new ones

Anganwadi workers' move will impact the ongoing Joint Survey of Health and Nutrition and data collection for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

In protest against the State government for not providing new mobile phones and an allowance to recharge them to conduct the Joint Survey of Health and Nutrition, anganwadi workers across the State have decided to stop the ongoing survey and return around 64,000 mobile phones to the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) on July 1. The decision comes in the wake of the government deciding to depute anganwadi workers to collect data on possible beneficiaries of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, where women heads of families will get of ₹2,000 every month.

Anaganwadi workers have cried foul that the government was not providing adequate infrastructure and facilities to them to carry out the surveys effectively on the ground. "Since the authorities have not responded to resolve our problems despite many requests for over a month now, we don't have any other option but to return the mobile phones to the DWCD," said an anganwadi worker. This, if unresolved, will be a huge setback for the ongoing Joint Survey of Health and Nutrition and implementation of the Gruhalakshmi scheme.



Mobile phones that were distributed by the Department of Women and Child Development to anganwadi workers under the Poshan Abhiyan scheme four years ago.

'No space for new apps'

Under the Poshan Abhiyan, around 64,000 anganwadi workers across the State were provided with smartphones four years ago to incorporate the information of the beneficiaries in the Poshan Tracker app. However, anganwadi workers now complain that these mobile phones are outdated, lack memory space to download any new application, even as the State government is asking them to download multiple apps it has created to carry out multiple surveys, and collect data and incorporate them directly in these apps. "Most of the phones now hang, have poor RAM speed and storage capacity," an anganwadi worker said, adding that the government had also not been regularly providing allowance to them to recharge the phones and in that situation, accessing internet was also a problem.

The Department of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Women and Child Development took up the Joint Survey of Health and Nutrition on May 30 and tasked the anganwadi workers to complete the survey, going to every household by June 30. The State government has developed a dedicated app for the survey, which many anganwadi workers complain is difficult to download on their phones. Add to this now, the government has asked the workers to download another app to incorporate details of eligible Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries.

In protest against the government's inaction, some anganwadi workers have already returned their phones to DWCD officials in Chitradurga district. However, senior officials have directed junior field officers not to receive these phones in the absence of a Government Order.

"Any electronic gadget's warranty is for six months to two years. However, the mobile phones provided by the government to incorporate the information in Poshan Tracker are four years old. All the surveys that the government readily deploys anganwadi workers will fail to take off if they are not given suitable phones to carry them out," said S. Varalakshmi, president of the Karnataka State Anganwadi Employees Association. "The government has also not been regularly providing internet recharge charges to us. Given the financial situation of most anganwadi workers, the government cannot expect us to bear those expenses. It is just not practical as well. As the government is not responding to our demands, we are left with no option but to return the phones," she said. The association has offered to carry out the survey manually instead if the government does not provide new phones immediately. They have also demanded that anganwadi workers be exempted from anganwadi work for three to four weeks to carry out these surveys.

Proposal pending

Anuradha K.N., Director, Directorate of Women and Child Development Department, said the proposal to buy new phones for anganwadi workers had been moved to the Finance Department and the approval for the same was awaited. However, she claimed that mobile data recharge allowance was being released regularly and that only a group of anganwadi workers were protesting and the survey was on, on the ground.

A kg of tomato to likely cost over ₹100 soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The severe deficient monsoon this time has already driven the prices of vegetables, especially tomatoes, northwards. The prices of tomatoes – which are in severe short supply – have shot up to over ₹80 level over the last week. A 15-kg crate of tomatoes was sold for ₹1,100 in Kolar wholesale APMC market on Sunday and this is expected to further drive up the price in the retail market in the city soon. A senior official with a leading grocery chain said the price of a kilo of tomato is expected to cross the ₹100 mark soon.

"The sowing of tomato this year is lower than the previous years, for various reasons. Many farmers in Kolar shifted to beans this year, as the price of beans skyrocketed last year. However, due to deficient monsoons crops have dried up and wilted. The tomato crop in the district may be only 30% of the usual," said Anji Reddy, a tomato farmer from Kolar. What has added to this is the crop loss in Maharashtra, prompting buyers from West Bengal, Odisha, and even for export to Bangladesh to cue up in the State's markets.

A 15-kg crate of tomatoes was sold for ₹1,100 in the Kolar wholesale APMC market on Sunday. FILE PHOTO

Rate card

Vegetable	Price on Sunday in ₹/kg
Tomatoe	70 - 80
Capsicum	80 - 85
Beans	120 - 140
Radish	45 - 55
Cabbage	40 - 50
Brinjal	45 - 60
Knol khol	70 - 80
Ladies' fingers	45 - 50
Carrot	80 - 100
Eggs	7 - 8/piece

Given that we are in the month of Ashadha, when no auspicious events are held, and rains are expected to hit the State, the general trend of the market is for veggie prices to see a downward trend. However, this year's deficient rains have led to crop loss, creating a shortage of supply in the market, driving up prices.

Except onions and potatoes, most other vegetables are being sold at a higher price than usual. For instance, the price of a kilo of beans is in the range of ₹120-₹140, the price of some varieties of carrots is inching towards the ₹100 mark, even as the price of a kilo of capsicum and knol khol has crossed the ₹80 mark. Meanwhile, the cost of eggs has also shot up and an egg is being sold in the range of ₹7-₹8, up from the range of ₹5-₹6.

Hike in prices at hotels soon

The Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels' Association (BBHA) said they were adopting a wait-and-watch approach, but said a price hike on the menu was inevitable and would be carried out soon, if the prices do not come down.

"The power tariff hike has led to a hike in the prices of all mill products, including rice. The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has reportedly sought a hike of ₹5/litre of milk and the decision is awaited. We will take a call on hiking prices in hotels after the State government decides on the milk price," said P.C. Rao, president, BBHA.

Gang of four stabs youth to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An armed gang of four stabbed a 19-year-old to death outside a bakery on Kasavanahalli Main Road in Bellandur on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as David Paras, a native of Nepal, working as an assistant cook in the city. He was living with his brother in a rented house, and had stopped going to work for the last one month. On Saturday night, he was standing outside a bakery when the accused confronted him and stabbed him multiple times before fleeing the spot.

Initial probe

An initial probe has revealed that the deceased had a fight with his friends over a trivial row and the accused stabbed him over the row, the police suspect.

David was taken to the hospital where the doctors declared him as brought dead. The Bellandur police have registered a case of murder and efforts are on to track down the accused.

From Page One

Trainer aircraft makes emergency landing on agricultural field

A team will visit Kalaburagi to investigate the incident," Chilka Mahesh, Director of Kalaburagi Airport, told *The Hindu*. "It is difficult to land an aircraft on any place other than a proper runway made for the purpose. However, in emergency situations, pilots do look for a flat surface and land the aircraft," he added.

A team of police personnel from Madbool Police Station rushed to the spot.

INBRIEF

International workshop on 'Technology for Peace'

The Department of Computer Science at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, recently organised an international workshop on 'Technology for Peace' with FSL (Field Services and Inter-cultural Learning) India under the project of Erasmus+ Program – the European Union's programme to support education, training, youth, and sport.

The workshop aimed at emphasising the need for service and the effective use of technology among youth for rendering peace. Rakesh Soans, president - FSL India, expressed the importance of volunteering for the benefit of society and how it can help. Adina Vladu, president of the International EDU Center, Romania, shared her experience with the Erasmus+ Program and how it helps to make a difference in society. "One can make a difference in the world by volunteering to serve society," she stated. The event also saw representatives from Poland, Vietnam, Romania, and India share their experience.

Registrations for Gruha Jyoti scheme cross 51 lakh

Registrations for the Gruha Jyoti scheme crossed 51 lakh on Sunday. Under the scheme, the State government provides up to 200 units of free power to households.

"With the registration process made simple and swift, a total of 51,17,692 consumers have registered for the scheme as on June 25, 2023," Energy Department said in a press release.

"Consumers can register without any fee at any electricity supply office, Nadakacheri or from their computer/mobile by visiting the Seva Sindhu portal https://sevasindhugs.karnataka.gov.in. Also, for registration at BangaloreOne, KarnatakaOne and GramaOne centres and gram panchayats, one has to pay a specified service charge only. Any illegal demand for extra money, consumers may intimate 24/7 helpline 1912," the department said in the release.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (June 26, Monday), the following explainer is available:

- The India-U.S. deal for 31 MQ-9B drones
  bit.ly/newdrones31mqb

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 26
RISE 05:56 SET 18:49
RISE 12:21 SET 00:04

TUESDAY, JUN. 27
RISE 05:56 SET 18:49
RISE 13:08 SET 00:39

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 28
RISE 05:56 SET 18:49
RISE 13:57 SET 01:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain or thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain or thundershower will occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Two youths killed in accident on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Two youths on a motorcycle were killed in an accident on the flyover passing through Maddur on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway on Sunday.

Sources in Maddur Traffic police told *The Hindu* that the youths, employed in a multinational company in Bengaluru, were on their way to Mysuru when the accident occurred around 5.45 a.m.

The dead have been identified as Mani and Janardhan, both in their twenties, hailing from Koppal and Kolar respectively.

The front portion of the two-wheeler was badly damaged. The traffic police have not been able to identify the other vehicle involved in the accident, but suspect that the two-wheeler may have hit the other vehicle from behind while overtaking it.

The frequent accidents on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway have become a source of concern. FILE PHOTO

The absence of CCTV cameras on the expressway is posing a challenge to the police in identifying the other vehicle.

The deaths come less than a week after three persons travelling in a car were killed in an accident at Gejjalagere, near Maddur.

The frequent accidents on the expressway attributed to flouting of road safety rules by drivers have become a source of concern. "Many vehicles overspeed on the expressway. Lane discipline is thrown to the winds, particularly by trucks," said a traffic police official.Trauma care centre

Meanwhile, Dinesh Gooli Gowda, MLC, has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar seeking a trauma care centre, with advanced medical treatment facilities, midway on the expressway and deployment of ambulances at every 30 km on the road.

A total of 595 accidents in which 158 people died had been recorded since September 2022 on the 118 km-long highway, 55 km of which passes through Ramanagara district, 58 km through Mandya district, and 5 km through Mysuru district, he said.

A total of 55 people had died and 52 suffered injuries in accidents only in the Mandya district stretch of the highway since January this year, he said.

With no speed limit, vehicles travel at speeds between 120 and 140 km per hour, the MLC said.

He said victims of road accidents on the highway would have to be taken to hospitals either in Bengaluru or Mysuru. As it was necessary to rush them to hospitals within the "golden hour", Mr. Gowda urged Mr. Siddaramaiah to consider setting up a trauma care centre midway on the expressway. In view of the time taken for ambulances to reach the accident spot, he said ambulances should be stationed at every 30 km on the highway so that the victims of accidents are rushed to the hospital.

Passengers miss train as railway authorities forget to make announcement

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Rail travellers who were waiting for the Hubballi-Secunderabad Express at Kalaburagi Railway Station on Sunday morning missed the train as the station authorities forgot to make an announcement about its arrival and departure as well as its platform information.

As per the information provided by the railway authorities and some of the passengers, the train in question, which started from Hubballi the previous night, was scheduled to reach Kalaburagi at 5.57 a.m. and depart the station at 6.00 a.m. The railway authorities notified the passengers through an LED screen display about the delay of the train by 32 minutes. The passengers were waiting on the corridor at Platform No. 1 and the train arrived in on some other platform and left for Secunderabad after stopping for a few minutes. The passengers waiting for the train did not know when the train arrived and left the station as there were no announcements about it. They came to know the departure only after the announcement for the next train - Hussain Sagar Express - on the same route was made.

A few passengers met the railway station authorities and took them to task condemning their negligence.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

CACHE

Adventure gone wrong: Crew members of the Polar Prince prepare to dock the ship as it arrives at the Coast Guard wharf in St. John's, Newfoundland on June 24. AP

The Titan tragedy: how did the Titanic tourist submersible operate?

What happened to the submersible? Who were the crew members of the fatal expedition? What should people know about the design of the Titan submersible? How was it maintained? Did it follow the UNESCO guidelines for the preservation of underwater world heritage sites?

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On June 18, a submersible named Titan went missing. On board the missing vehicle were one pilot and four crew members travelling to see the wreckage of the RMS Titanic, which is nearly four thousand metres under water in the frigid North Atlantic ocean. One hour and forty-five minutes into the journey, contact with Titan was lost. The U.S., Canadian, and French authorities started using airplanes and boats as well as remotely operated vehicles to locate the sub. On June 22, authorities informed that all five passengers on Titan died in a 'catastrophic implosion'. Titan's pilot was Stockton Rush, CEO of OceanGate Inc., the company that runs these tours to the sunken ship.

What is the Titan submersible?

Titan is a submersible, or an underwater vehicle. It is operated by the privately owned U.S. company OceanGate that organises underwater expeditions for both research and tourism. The company claims that Titan, which it said was built with "off-the-shelf" components, is lighter and more cost-efficient than other deep diving submersibles. The 6.7-metre-long manned submersible is intended for "site survey and inspection, research and data collection, film and media production, and deep sea testing of hardware and software," according to the OceanGate website. The company said its expeditions were meant to document the Titanic and its rate of decay on the ocean floor, and that all expeditions were in line with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Guidelines for Research, Exploration and Salvage of RMS Titanic, as well as the UNESCO guidelines for the preservation of underwater world heritage sites.

What do these guidelines say?

It is important to remember that the wreckage of the Titanic is a grave site where victims experienced unimaginable horror and suffering in their final hours. For this reason, international guidelines are in place to protect the now rust-covered wreckage which is scattered across the ocean bed, as well as the visitors who wish to see it. The UNESCO guidelines stress on the long-term preservation of "underwater cultural heritage" and the need to protect the surrounding waters by ensuring "responsible non-intrusive access."

The NOAA guidelines are similar and insist that recovered material and artefacts must be managed as per professional standards. In other words, taking souvenirs from the wreckage site is strongly discouraged.

What is the difference between a submarine and a submersible?

While the two categories can overlap, a submarine refers to an underwater vehicle that is largely independent and has power reserves to help it depart from a port or come back to the port after an expedition. Meanwhile, a submersible is generally smaller in size and has less power, so it needs to work with a ship in order to be launched and recovered. Titan was working with a vessel named Polar Prince.

What happened to Titan?

The five people on the Titan submersible travelling to see the wreckage of the Titanic at a depth of 3,800 metres were OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush, billionaire Hamish Harding, businessman Shahzada Dawood and his university-going son Suleman Dawood, and Titanic researcher Paul-Henri Nargeolet. The cost of the tour is reportedly $2,50,000 per person. The Titanic tour takes place about 380 nautical miles south of Newfoundland, close to where the British passenger liner RMS Titanic sank on 15 April 1912 after colliding with an iceberg. Over 1,500 people died in the tragedy.

On June 22, OceanGate said the five crew members had "sadly been lost". The U.S. Coast Guard shared in a press conference that a field of debris with fragments of Titan was found, indicating that the submersible had suffered a "catastrophic loss of the pressure chamber" which killed all on board. OceanGate said it had conducted "successful" expeditions to the Titanic in 2021 and 2022.

How was the submersible operated?

Titan is made of carbon fibre and titanium, and weighs 10,432 kilograms, according to OceanGate's website. It is capable of going 4,000 metres undersea, and moves as fast as three knots per hour (5.56 kph). Based on images from the company website, there is space for five crew members to sit on the floor, though not stand. While there is a small porthole window at one end, below 1,000 metres no sunlight reaches the ocean so the submersible would have to rely on its own lighting. The submersible is dependent on external crew members, as it is bolted from the outside. Titan also has an integrated launch and recovery platform.

In a 2022 video interview with BBC, OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush said that Titan had only one button inside and that the submersible was run with a "Sony PlayStation-style controller" made by Logitech. The company has explained that "off-the-shelf" technology helped make it easier to replace parts. While it may sound strange that a submersible on such a high-risk expedition was operated with a gaming-style controller, the fact is that such devices are also used by some drone operators, navy personnel, and robot operators. Game controllers are cheap, easy to buy in bulk, designed to be intuitive, and respond quickly to the users' hand movements.

Before the expedition, OceanGate said in a tweet that it was relying on satellite-based internet from the Elon Musk-founded company SpaceX's Starlink for communication from the middle of the ocean throughout the Titanic expedition. Mr. Musk is yet to formally address the situation or issue a statement.

Has Titan had problems before?

Titan has experienced problems in the past. CBS Sunday Morning correspondent David Pogue claimed this week that the submersible "got lost for a few hours" when he was part of an expedition last year as a journalist, though he was on the ship and not the submersible at the time. Mr. Pogue tweeted on June 19 that the company could text Titan that day but did not know where the submersible was. Mr. Pogue added that internet was shut off to stop those on the surface from tweeting, though he did not report this on the show at the time. He also claimed the submersible did not have a beacon that could be detected by rescuers.

According to the CBS Sunday Morning video report that his news organisation shared, the surface ship was supposed to lead Titan to Titanic's wreckage but communications broke down and they did not reach their destination that day.

In 2018, OceanGate fired its employee David Lochridge and sued him after he filed a whistle-blower complaint with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration over the safety of the Titan submersible, CBS reported. Mr. Lochridge allegedly pushed for better testing of the submersible's hull before sending it down for dives. According to Mr. Lochridge's court filings from August 15, 2018, he learned that "the viewport at the forward of the submersible was only built to a certified pressure that is felt at 1,300 metres, although OceanGate intended to take passengers down to depths of 4,000 metres". His other concerns included the "experimental" design, a lack of comprehensive hull testing, and the use of hazardous flammable materials inside the submersible, as per the filings.

The submersible has ignited worldwide debate about the ethics of dark tourism and the need to regulate technological innovation in high-risk sectors.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of India's momentous World Cup triumph orchestrated by 'Kapil's Devils'

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

June 25 was already part of Indian cricket folklore much before Kapil Dev lifted the Prudential Cup at Lord's in 1983. In what way is the date historic?

QUESTION 2

Which member of the team, who played in all the matches, had featured in all of India's matches in the 1975 and 1979 World Cup?

QUESTION 3

Name the countries that India played against in the group stage before qualifying for the semifinals against England?

QUESTION 4

What is common to Yashpal Sharma, Madan Lal, Kapil Dev, Roger Binny, and Mohinder Amarnath?

QUESTION 5

There was one player in the victorious squad who did not get to play even a single match. Name this unlucky, yet champion member.

QUESTION 6

In a tournament where everything went right for the country, which Indians set the records for the most number of catches and wickets?

QUESTION 7

What was the prize money given to the winning team along with the trophy and individual medals?

Visual question:
In which ground did Kapil conjure up the brilliant 175 against Zimbabwe? THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the June 23 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This film by this famous Italian-American director, sparked outrage everywhere, with the Roman Catholic Church deeming it "morally offensive." **Ans: *The Last Temptation of Christ* by Martin Scorsese**

2. The drama surrounding this film, which has explicit sexual content, was limited to the screen when it was released. **Ans: *Last Tango in Paris***

3. In India, this film, based on an epic poem by 16th century poet Malik Muhammad Jayasi, sparked controversy. **Ans: *Padmaavat***

4. She was said to be Hitler's favourite filmmakers. One of her films, about the Nuremberg rally, is known as one of the best propaganda films ever made. **Ans: Leni Riefenstahl**

5. This film was released three weeks after its director Pier Paolo Pasolini was murdered. **Ans: *Salo, or the 120 days of Sodom***

Visual: This film on the events of Partition was based on an unpublished story by Ismat Chughtai. **Ans: *Garam Hawa***

Early Birds: Sarbrinder Singh Brar| Harinath K| K. N. Viswanathan

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

He was made the scapegoat for the team

The manager has agreed to take a haircut but I don't think he will stay with the company for long

S. Upendran

Can the word 'scapegoat' be used as a verb? (Aditi Rao, Mysore)

The word 'scapegoat' can be used both as a noun and a verb. As a noun, it is normally used to refer to someone who gets blamed for everything that goes wrong. Your friend may have done something wrong, but it may be you who gets blamed for it. You are made a scapegoat. As kids, when we did not want to do something, we usually ended up saying, "My parents won't like it". We made this excuse because we did not want our friends to get mad at us, but at our parents. So, we put the blame on them – we made them the scapegoat. 'Fall guy' is another word which has more or less the same meaning as 'scapegoat'.

Poor Sujatha was made a scapegoat for the Vice Chancellor's blunders.

When used as a verb, the word means 'to make a scapegoat of'.

I don't understand why they scapegoated the producer for the failure of the film.

Nowadays, when we hear the word 'scapegoat', we immediately think of a person. When the word was first used, it referred to an actual goat. During the ancient Hebrew Day of Atonement ceremony, two goats were randomly chosen for sacrifice. The priests, then, performed rituals to cleanse the people of the town of their sins. The collected sins were then symbolically transferred onto one of the goats. This animal, which was called 'scapegoat', meaning 'the goat that escaped', was then released into the wilderness, and it carried away with it the sins of the community. As for the second goat, it was sacrificed. When you think about it, the meaning of 'scapegoat' has changed over the years. The scapegoat of today does not really escape; he is more like the sacrificial goat!

Is it okay to say 'take a haircut'? (R Mahendran, Dindigul)

When you are planning to go to the barber to get your hair cut, you normally say, "I'm going to get a haircut" or "I'm going to have a haircut". You do not say "I'm going to take a haircut". The expression 'take a haircut', however, is frequently heard in informal contexts in the world of business and economics. When an employee decides to 'take a haircut', what he is doing is taking a pay cut – he decides to work for less salary.

For the sake of the company, the CEO took a haircut of about 50% from his salary.

The expression is also used to mean a 'small reduction in the price of a share, bond, etc.' When this happens, the value of the asset that you have goes down.

We were hoping to sell the flat at a huge profit. Given the market situation, it looks like we will have to take a haircut.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Fob:
a vest pocket to hold a pocket watch; an adornment that hangs from a watch chain; short chain or ribbon attaching a pocket watch to a man's vest; deceive somebody (used as a noun or verb)

Synonyms: trick, play a joke on, pull a fast one, watch chain, watch guard

Usage: *We fobbed the teacher into thinking that class was cancelled.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/fobpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fɒb/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE HINDU GROUP

businessline
Presents

MSME GROWTH CONCLAVE

Powered by
SBI The banker to every Indian

In association with
Bank of Baroda Credit Card

JOIN US LIVE AS WE DISCUSS MSMEs, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

CHIEF GUEST

Shri Siddaramaiah
Chief Minister,
Govt. of Karnataka

PANEL 1 | INTEREST RATES AND GROWTH OF MSMEs

Aiswarya Ravi
CFO,
Kinara Capital

Shashidhar Shetty
President,
KASSIA

J R Bangera
National MSME Board Member,
Former President, FKCCI

Sudhanshu Suman
General Manager,
MSME Wing,
Canara Bank, Bengaluru

PANEL 2 | LEVERAGING CLOUD & AI FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN MSMEs

Rajeev Singh
VP & Business Head,
Midmarket and Emerging Business,
SAP Indian Subcontinent

Siddesh Naik
Country Leader - Data, AI & Automation
Software, Technology Sales,
IBM India & South Asia

Samik Roy
Executive Director - Corporate,
Medium and Small Business,
Microsoft India

Rajat Shikar
Co-Founder & CPO,
Dealshare

Date: June 27, 2023
Time: 5:30 PM Onwards

Scan the QR code
or visit bit.ly/BLMSME
to watch the event live

Associate Partner: Canara Bank
Associate Partner: AASHIRVAAD
State Partner: Government of West Bengal, Department of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises & Textiles
Electric Mobility Partner: mahindra
Broadcast Partner: newsX NEWS. NOT NOISE

THE HINDU
EDUCATIONPLUS

Make it immersive and interactive

The use of immersive technology in education can open up new possibilities and opportunities for students with learning disabilities

GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Dave Dolan

Today's learners face unique challenges when it comes to maintaining attention in the classroom. With the proliferation of digital devices and information overload, it's no surprise that attention spans seem to be dwindling. For learners with disabilities, this struggle can be even more pronounced. Conditions such as ADHD, dyslexia, and others can make it extremely difficult to sustain focus and concentration. Apart from attention deficits, there are several other challenges that they have to face every day in a classroom. As educators, it is crucial for us to be aware of these and find creative ways to engage and support all learners. This is where immersive technologies such as Virtual and Augmented Reality can help address the diverse needs of learners with disabilities. Immersive and interactive learning experiences not only captivate attention, but bring so much more to education, especially in a special education classroom.

Two years ago, I introduced an 80-year-old, legally blind lady to Virtual Reality (VR). "Wow, I can see faces," were her first words after putting the VR headset on. Seeing her enthusiasm as she explored and interacted in VR highlighted the incredible potential of VR in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. It showed how VR can open up new possibilities for experiences and learning opportunities that may otherwise be out of reach. It is moments like this that help us believe in the power of technology to be of real, tangible help in the education world.

Attention and concentration

Attention can be a significant challenge for learners with special needs as some may struggle with attention deficits or other cognitive challenges that impact their ability to fully engage in the learning process. They may face difficulties staying focused, following instructions, and tuning out distractions, and can require additional support and accommodations. It can be emotionally distressing for them to lag behind or struggle to keep up with peers, resulting in an overwhelming and frustrating learning experience.

Virtual reality allows learners to be fully immersed in a scenario by themselves, keeping focus on the simulation in front of them rather than the distractions of the classroom. Virtual environments allow learners to focus on one task at a time and switch between different tasks at their own pace, which can help improve their overall attention and concentration skills.

Emotional and social safety

The best part about immersive technology is that it provides a sense of security. Virtual environments create a safe space for students to learn, collaborate, and express themselves without the fear of judgment or negative consequences. In virtual classrooms, learners can practice public speaking, engage in group discussions, and participate in role-playing scenarios - all within a controlled and supportive environment. This sense of security allows them to take risks, make mistakes, and learn from that without the fear of embarrassment or ridicule. VR also provides opportunities for learners with social anxiety to practice social skills in a safe and controlled setting, helping them to build confidence and resilience in their interactions with peers.

Distraction-free learning environment

In a traditional classroom, changes in the physical environment and other distracting visual stimuli can easily disrupt a learner's focus and increase anxiety. However, VR offers a controlled environment where distractions can be eliminated, which can greatly benefit students with special needs. The familiar and consistent virtual environment can help calm learners with disabilities and create a sense of predictability and routine. This promotes a feeling of comfort, allowing students to better focus on learning the content without distractions.

Making impossible experiences possible

Imagine a world where learners with disabilities can overcome physical limitations and engage in activities that were previously inaccessible to them. VR has the power to make this a reality. Learners with mobility impairments can explore virtual worlds, travel to far-off places, and learn about things that they cannot have otherwise accessed. They can virtually "travel" to inaccessible locations, such as distant countries, historic landmarks, or natural wonders. They can learn about different cultures, history, and geography, and gain a broader perspective of the world.

As we strive for a more inclusive future of learning, immersive technologies have emerged as powerful tools to address the diverse needs of learners with disabilities. It's crucial for us as educators to create inclusive and engaging learning environments that empower and enable all learners to reach their full potential.

The writer is Chief Product Officer, Veative

NITTE EDUCATION TRUST

NITTE MEENAKSHI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
An Autonomous Institution with 'A+' grade by NAAC
Approved by AICTE/ Govt. of Karnataka & Affiliated to VTU, Belagavi

Undergraduate Programs (4 Years)
B.E. Aeronautical Engineering
B.E. Artificial Intelligence & Data Science
B.E. Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
B.E. Civil Engineering
B.E. Computer Science & Business Systems
B.E. Computer Science & Engineering
B.E. Electrical & Electronics Engineering
B.E. Electronics Engineering (VLSI Design & Technology)
B.E. Electronics & Communication Engineering
B.E. Information Science & Engineering
B.E. Mechanical Engineering

Post Graduate Programs (2 Years)
M. Tech in Defence Technology
M. Tech in Electric Vehicle Technology
M. Tech in Renewable Energy
M. Tech in Robotics & Artificial Intelligence
M. Tech in Structural Engineering
Master of Business Administration (MBA)
Master of Computer Applications (MCA)

Ph. D Programs
Engineering | Sciences |Management

Minor Programs
Cyber Security will be offered by the Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering (for the students of ISE, Civil, ECE, Mech & Aero Branches).
Software Engineering Practices will be offered by the Dept. of Information Science & Engineering (for the students of EEE, ECE, Mech, Civil & Aero Branches).
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning will be offered by the Dept. of AI & ML (for the students of EEE, ECE, Mech, Civil & Aero Branches).

Post Box No. 6429, NMIT Campus, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560064.
Mob: +91 8151 00 4455 | +91 80 221 67 929
Email: enquiry@nitte.edu.in | www.nmit.ac.in

INBRIEF

Telangana MLA escapes unhurt as his vehicle hits tree

Rohith Reddy, MLA for Tandur in Telangana, escaped unhurt in an accident involving his sports utility vehicle (SUV) at Miyaru village in Karkala taluk in Udupi district on Saturday. The Karkala Rural police said that Mr. Reddy was going from Mangaluru to Sharadamba temple in Sringeri of Chikkamagaluru district.

At a turn in Miyaru, the driver of the SUV swerved to the left to avoid hitting cattle that were crossing the road. The SUV hit a roadside tree and came to a halt. The police said that the Telangana MLA was unhurt.

Nonagenarian leaders meet

The oldest legislator in Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa on Sunday called on former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda at his residence here. Sources close to Mr. Shivashankarappa, who turned 93 recently, said that it was a courtesy visit and to enquire about the health of Mr. Gowda, who last month turned 90.

Siddaramaiah calls for freedom struggle-like movement to oust BJP

That party has always opposed the Constitution, and now minorities, farmers, and the poor are living in an atmosphere of fear, he says

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that there is a necessity of a non-Bharatiya Janataa Party government in India to take the country on the path of development, uplift the poor and curb corruption, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said everyone should involve in another struggle like the Independence struggle to remove the BJP from power.

"Congress workers should work to ensure the party wins in the next Lok Sabha elections and Maharashtra Assembly elections. Congress workers should take oath to protect the Constitution and be ready for all kinds of struggle to protect it. The change of Constitution should not be allowed. Only if the Constitution survives that we can live unitedly," the Chief Minister told a gathering at a public function to felicitate him at Sangli in Maharashtra.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah being felicitated at a function organised by the Congress at Sangli in Maharashtra on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Corruption is synonymous of BJP. The contractors' association in Karnataka called the BJP government a 40% corruption government. It never works for the poor," he said. The BJP, he said, had always opposed the Constitution, and currently minorities, farmers and the poor are living in an atmosphere of fear. "Savarkar and Golwalkar had opposed the Constitution then. Sangha parivar is doing it now," he said.

The popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, is waning. "BJP leaders, including Mr. Modi and others, visited Karnataka to defeat Congress. The loss for BJP shows that Mr. Modi's popularity is waning. The BJP's calculation that despite its anti-people and corrupt government it can win the elections being dependent on Mr. Modi turned out to be a failure."

'PM lying'

Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "In my 40 years of political life, I had not seen a Prime Minister who told lies. He promised to bring back black money from abroad and distribute ₹15 lakh to everyone. His statement is a lie. He said he would not indulge in corruption nor would he allow it. However, the 40% commission government continued in Karnataka."

Centre indulging in politics of hate: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Reiterating that the Centre was indulging in politics of hate to provide rice to Karnataka that wants to provide an additional 5 kg free rice to the poor, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said it has refused rice despite having enough stock.

"It is pursuing politics of hate. Rice is not being given even though appeal was made to Union Food Minister. This shows that the BJP is against poor." He said that during the erstwhile Congress regime, 7 kg rice was given to poor, which had to be enhanced to 10 kg under Anna Bhagya now.

I will take responsibility for poll debacle: Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Former Chief Minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said he would take responsibility for the party's poor show in the Assembly elections.

"We have lost the Assembly elections despite providing good governance. Ours was an honest government that worked for the development of the State and for the welfare of people. We released over ₹5,000 crore for irrigation projects and established the Kittur Karnataka Development Board; but we failed in publicising our efforts. We could not take our projects to the people," Mr. Bommai said.

He urged party workers to remain united and work for the BJP's victory in the Lok Sabha polls. "We should make united efforts to bring back Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to power. We should understand that elections to the Assembly and Lok Sabha are different. It should be our single-minded resolve [to win the elections]. We should forget the past and ensure that Mr. Modi becomes the Prime Minister again," he said.

Cong. has lost popularity within a month of forming govt.: Ex-CM

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Accusing the Congress government of failing to properly implement its poll guarantees, former Chief Minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday alleged that the Congress dispensation had lost its popularity within a month of forming the government due to its inability to fulfil promises.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaking at a BJP workers' meeting in Belagavi on Sunday. P.K. BADIGER

"The Congress has failed to provide a good government in Karnataka. It has failed to fulfil the promises made in the elections. That is the reason why the Congress is fast losing popularity. Congress came to power by promising various guarantees to people. But within a month, they have lost their popularity," he said, while addressing party workers of Belagavi district at a meeting.

Mr. Bommai said that the Congress guarantees had created a negative impact on the State's finances. "The Shakti scheme of free KSRTC travel for women will lead to such a situation where the State-run transport corporation will have to be closed down. It is a drain on the corporation's finances. There is no diesel to run the buses," he said.

Reddy denies

However, Ramalinga Reddy, Transport Minister, denied such allegations. "The Shakti scheme has not destroyed the State transport undertakings. On the contrary, it is strengthening us. They have increased the number of trips and we are getting assured income from the State government's guarantee scheme. Mr. Bommai's allegation is not based on facts," Mr. Reddy said after inspecting implementation of Shakti scheme at Belagavi bus stand.

"We are in the process of buying over 4,000 new buses. We are providing additional amenities, infrastructure and benefits to passengers in bus stations. We are happy about the scheme. We are not reluctantly implementing the scheme,'' he said. He made a similar statement in Hubballi.

Mr. Bommai accused the Congress leaders of double speak. "First they said everything is free for everyone. But now they are applying several conditions for each scheme. Why is that? That is because the Congress leaders who made the poll promises had no idea about the financial implications of the guarantees. But now they are unable to fulfil them," he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Not practising what they preach

The Congress in Karnataka, which had objected to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph on the COVID-19 vaccination certificates issued to citizens, is now printing photographs of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy in all banners/posters and model smart cards of "Shakti'', free bus pass travel scheme for women. Similarly, photographs of CM, Dy. CM and Energy Minister K.J. Goerge have been printed on all banners and posters at the BESCOM's offices in Bengaluru.

A BJP leader took a jibe at Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar for the "double standards" of the Congress government. The Congress seems to be saying one thing while in the Opposition and practising another while in the ruling, he said.

Fashionably late

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is handling both party and major portfolios in the government, is a busy man. But he seems to be lacking in time discipline while attending scheduled programmes or press conferences. These days, Mr. Shivakumar has been arriving late to meetings/functions. He arrived nearly one hour late for a press conference on June 16 at the party office to inform the media about the party's protest on June 20 against the Central government's denial of rice to the State's Anna Bhagya scheme. Earlier, Mr. Shivakumar, who is holding Bengaluru Development portfolio, arrived late for an inspection tour of the city. In one more instance earlier this month, Malleswaram BJP MLA C.N. Ashwath Narayan walked out of the BBMP meeting convened to discuss preparations ahead of monsoon as Mr. Shivakumar was late by more than an hour. Along with Mr. Narayan, BJP MLAs Byrati Basavaraj, S.T. Somashekar, and N. Muniraju walked out of the meeting.

Shreyas H.S.
Nagesh Prabhu

3-day training for MLAs from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid criticism over inviting religious personalities to speak to legislators, the three-day training programme for 70 first-time MLAs will commence on the city's outskirts from Monday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will be inaugurating the session in the presence of Speaker U.T. Khader and Chairman of the Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti.

Parliamentary practices

Besides programmes to inculcate physical exercises for good health, 70 first-time legislators will be trained in parliamentary practices such as the details of legislature session, question hour, zero hour and calling attention notice by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, and parliamentary skills development in Rule 69, confidence and no-confidence motion by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

Former Chairman of Legislative Council B.L. Shankar will speak on Governor's speech, budget speech and processes.

Former Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri will talk on legislation making and relationship between the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council while former Minister T.B. Jayachandra will speak on responsibilities of legislators, rights and privileges. Former Minister A.H. Vishwanath will speak on ethics, rules to be followed in the House and ways to become a popular legislator.

Actor and former MLC Mukhyamantri Chandru will speak on the lighter moments during the session and former Chief Minister Veerappa Moily will speak on the committees of the legislature and ways to strengthen these committees. Representatives of PRS will train legislators in the relationship between legislature and media.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, former Chief Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy and B.S. Yediyurappa will be interacting with the first-time legislators.

MP and Dharmadarshi of Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade will speak on harmonious society and role of legislators in developing Karnataka and a stronger India.

Representatives of Brahmakumaris will be offering friendly advice to the newly elected legislators while Mohammed Kunhi will deliver a talk on ways to improve harmony between people's representatives and people.

ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಸಿಂಧನೂರು – 584128
ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ರಾಯಚೂರು ರಾಜ್ಯ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
Website:http//:www.sindhanurcity.mrc.gov.in ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08535-222233
Email: itstaff_ulb_sindhanur@yahoo.co.in
No.CMC/SND/HS/LWMT/CR-01/2023-24 Date: 22.06.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಕಂಪನಿ/ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವಸ್ತು ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವರದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ (KW-4) ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೂ ಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ. www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಏನಾದರೂ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ: ಪಾರಂಪರಿಕ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬಯೋ ರೆಮಿಡಿಯೇಷನ್ ಮತ್ತು ಬಯೋ ಮೈನಿಂಗ್ ಮೂಲಕ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದು **ಇ-ಪ್ರೂ ಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/ 2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT491. **ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ:** ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್-2.0 ಅನುದಾನ, 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅನುದಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಅನುದಾನಗಳು. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 369.65, **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) :** ರೂ.5,55,000/-

1) ವಿವರಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 07-07-2023 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ: 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ. 2) ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12-07-2023 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 3) ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 24-07-2023 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ: 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ. 4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 26-07-2023 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು 5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 31-07-2023 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ಪರಿಸರ)/ ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

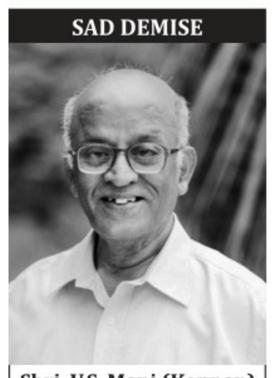
ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು,
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಸಿಂಧನೂರು

DIP/RCR/44/KSMC&A/Job No.39/2023-24

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



Shri. V.S. Mani (Kannan)
21 July, 1939 to 23 June, 2023
Retired Vice President, ABB

Deeply mourned
by his children,
Ravi Mani & Shweta Mani,
and their families.
Contact::
Ravi Mani: 9972591211
Shweta Mani: 8605088855

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. T. SELVARAJ
Former General Secretary,
Lakshmi Vilas Bank Employees Union
Former Vice - President, NCBE
Former General Secretary,
LVB Retirees Organisation
Founder - Managing Trustee - Unity Foundation.
"Perhaps they are not the stars, but rather openings in Heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy".
Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law
and Grand Children

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF LXXIV CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BENGALORE CCH NO.75
O. S No. 26728/2022
BETWEEN: Mr. Rohith Ganesh ...Plaintiff
-V/S- Mrs. Bhagyamma and Others
...Defendunits
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT No. 1, 2 AND 3 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1-A) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE:
1.Mrs.BHAGYAMMA. Aged about 60 years W/o Late.Narashimhamurthy :Defendant No.1
2. Mr.SHIVARAJ KUMAR.K.N Aged about 32 years S/o Late. Narashimhamurthy: :Defendant No.2
Both are residing at No.65/14, Cable Govindaraju Building, Anekal Road, Anekal Taluk, Attibele,
3.Mrs.SHILPA.N Aged about 34 years D/o Late Narashimhamurthy W/o Chandrashekar.N.S Residing at: No.241, Biligere Nivasa, 3rd Cross, 1st Left, Manjunatha Layout, Basavanapura Road, K.R.Puram, Bangalore -56003 :Defendant No.3
NOTICE
WHEREAS the Plaintiff above named has instituted a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Code of Civil Procedure, where the Plaintiff seek a Judgement and decree for the recovery money against you and others. Hence, you are hereby called upon to appear before the Hon'ble LXXIV Addl City Civil and Sessions Judge. Mayohall at Bengalore(CCH No.75) Court in person or by pleader on 10.07.2023 at 11.00 AM clock failing which the matter will be heard and will be disposed of exparte against you.
Given under my hand seal of the Court on this 17th Day of June 2023
By Order of the Court
Sd/- Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF:
RAJKUMAR. R ADVOCATE
No.125 & 126, Flat No.102, 'DAS' Building, Kamakshi Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560083. Mob : 9916512277

READ
SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

LEGAL NOTICE

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU- 560001
O.A. NO. 943/2022
BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LIMITED,
The Senate IBC, Ulsoor Road, Yellappa Garden, Yellappa Chetty Layout, Sivachetti Gardens, Bengaluru- 560008.
...APPLICANT
AND :
1. M/s Rajsri Jewellers
Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Savai K Khatri No. 864, Shop No. 3F, Mataji Jewellery Market, Nagarthpet Main Road, Near to Ram Medicals, Bangalore- 560002.
...DEFENDANT
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993
WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 23,20,356.11/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six Paisa Eleven Only)** together with current and future interest and other relief's. The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **08/09/2023** at **10.30 A.M.**, as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 19th day June, 2023.
Asst. Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I
Bangalore

Centre sabotaging Karnataka's food scheme: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jairam Ramesh

As the Food Corporation of India (FCI) rejected the non-BJP-ruled States' demand to reconsider the decision to restrict purchase through the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), the Congress said on Sunday that it is Karnataka's *durbhagya* (misfortune) that the Narendra Modi government is sabotaging the Anna Bhagya 2.0 scheme.

The FCI had said the States' schemes cater to the same set of beneficiaries covered under the Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna.

Congress general secretary and MP Jairam Ramesh said from January 1, 2023 till May 24, 2023, the BJP-led government in Karnataka alone lifted more than 95% of the rice procured by all State governments under the OMSS at a rate of ₹3,400 per quintal, presumably with Modi*ji*'s "*aashirwaad*" (blessings). "Once, the Congress government was formed in Karnataka, this '*ashirwaad*' has been withdrawn at breakneck speed, as threatened by BJP president J.P. Nadda," he said.

Mr. Ramesh said in a statement that on June 14, the FCI's General Manager for Karnataka withdrew the earlier order of sale of rice on June 12. "Not only that, the Chairman and Managing Director of FCI in a press conference on June 23 said that conditions will be placed such that private traders cannot sell to another State. Isn't this a clear case of sabotage," Mr. Ramesh asked.

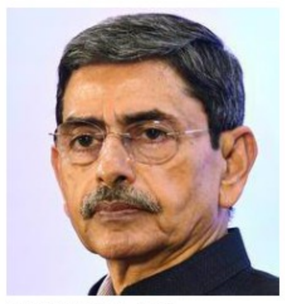
He asked if there is a depletion of rice stocks, why the allocation and lifting of rice from the FCI's central pool stock for ethanol production and blending of petrol continues at the rate of ₹2,000 per quintal. "Why is it that 1.5 lakh tonnes of rice is allocated for production of ethanol this year if stocks have depleted?" he said.

"Why is that the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana is not a '*revdi*', whereas the Congress Guarantee of 10 kg free rice through the Anna Bhagya 2.0 scheme is vilified and sabotaged? It is nothing but Karnataka's *Durbhagya* that Prime Minister Modi is punishing the poor of the State... But the Congress government in Karnataka will do everything possible to ensure the rights of the people are protected, and the Guarantee of Anna Bhagya 2.0 with 10 kg free rice is implemented at the earliest, come what may," he said.

'Two AIADMK-era Bills among 13 pending in Raj Bhavan'

On May 4, Governor R.N. Ravi, had in an interview to an English daily said that there is no Bill pending before the Raj Bhavan or the Governor

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI


Governor R. N. Ravi

Two Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly during the erstwhile AIADMK government, headed by Edappadi K Palaniswami, are among the 13 pieces of legislation pending with the Governor, according to the Tamil Nadu Law Department.

Documents provided in response to an application filed under the Right to Information Act by *The Hindu* showed the Governor is yet to give assent to the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Bill, 2020, and the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Amendment) Bill, 2020. These two Bills were sent to the Raj Bhavan for assent on January 13 and 18, 2020, respectively, when Banwarilal Purohit was the Governor during the AIADMK government.

In its response dated June 15, 2023, the Public Information Officer of the Law Department said 13 Bills (including these two) passed by the Assembly are pending with the Governor as on May 22, 2023.

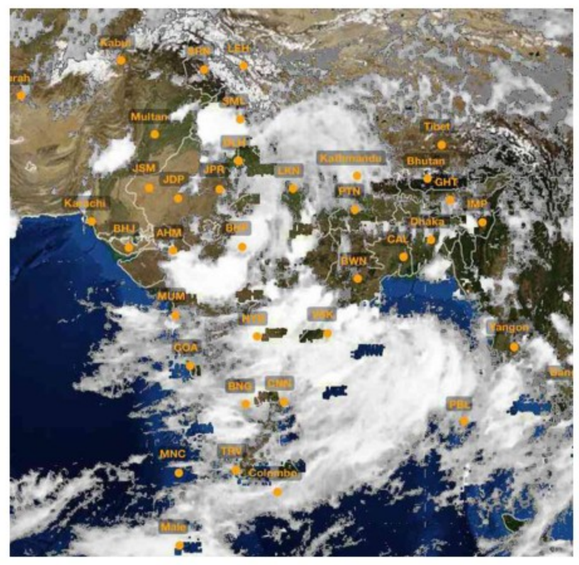
Significantly, on May 4, Governor R.N. Ravi, who took charge in September 2021, had in an interview to an English daily said, "There is no Bill pending before the Raj Bhavan or the Governor." Mr. Ravi had said he had "withheld" assent to eight Bills pertaining to universities and the Tamil Nadu Siddha Medical University Bill, 2022, to establish a Siddha university near Chennai.

However, the same day, the then Minister for Industries, Thangam Thennarasu, said 17 Bills adopted by the Assembly and sent to the Governor were "pending". "In so far as the administration is concerned, he [the Governor] has kept them pending without granting assent," Mr. Thennarasu had said. "The Governor must explain the legal distinction between keeping the Bills 'pending' and 'withholding' them," he had added.

The Hindu on Friday reached out to the Raj Bhavan, asking if any Bills sent by the government on or before April 30, 2023, were pending with the Governor; and for details of the Bills for which he had withheld assent. However, it did not receive any response as on Sunday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala; with lightning at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.8	25.8	Kozhikode	12.0	31.1	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	35.2	26.7	Kurnool	0.2	35.5	26.1
Aizawl	0.4	34.5	21.5	Lucknow	4.0	35.4	26.0
Allahabad	—	38.3	27.2	Madurai	—	38.8	25.1
Bengaluru	0.6	29.1	20.9	Mangaluru	32.2	28.1	23.6
Bhopal	1.5	28.8	23.8	Mumbai	86.0	27.5	24.0
Bhubaneswar	8.0	29.5	25.3	Mysuru	—	32.5	21.6
Chandigarh	—	29.6	26.3	New Delhi	54.0	28.0	23.0
Chennai	—	34.3	28.5	Patna	—	39.4	29.2
Coimbatore	—	33.4	23.3	Port Blair	—	31.5	26.8
Dehradun	15.5	30.0	23.3	Puducherry	—	35.4	26.9
Gangtok	3.0	21.9	18.7	Pune	17.6	30.7	22.5
Goa	72.0	28.7	24.0	Raipur	32.0	26.8	24.7
Guwahati	—	36.6	26.3	Ranchi	25.0	29.3	24.1
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	0.2	27.0	18.2
Hyderabad	41.0	30.8	22.5	Shimla	14.0	21.0	16.0
Imphal	7.0	30.7	22.2	Srinagar	1.0	32.6	19.8
Jaipur	0.4	30.8	27.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.7	25.3
Kochi	—	30.8	25.4	Tiruchi	—	38.1	26.6
Kohima	2.0	23.5	18.4	Vijayawada	38.0	33.6	25.2
Kolkata	0.7	31.1	27.6	Visakhapatnam	2.0	32.1	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.33	..—	.96	25	46	
Bengaluru	.07	..40	.17	23	71	
Chennai	.04	..93	.66	83	77	
Delhi	..—	..15	135	36	42	
Hyderabad	.15	..11	.37	14	71	
Kolkata	.16	..12	.18	10	14	
Lucknow	.06	..22	106	36	40	
Mumbai	.55	..—	.65	45	...149	
Pune	132	222	111	36	32	
Visakhapatnam	.15	..49	.44	50	84	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Meghalaya recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 236 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Sudhakaran goes back on offer to quit as KPCC chief

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ KANNUR

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran, MP, retreated from his statement made on Saturday that he contemplated giving up his organisational responsibilities.

He had made the statement in the wake of the Crime Branch's probe against him in connection with fake antiquities dealer Monson Mavunkal's alleged financial malfeasance. Mr. Sudhakaran said the All India Congress Committee had asked him to continue officiating as the KPCC president. He had offered to step down to 'avoid becoming a political liability to the Congress in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.'

The leader further said that he would file defamation cases against CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan and the party newspaper *Deshabhimani*. Mr. Govindan had alleged that according to the victim of a POCSO case involving Monson, Mr. Sudhakaran was present at Monson's property when the victim was being sexually abused. The allegation was based on a Deshabhimani report.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan and Mr. Sudhakaran are likely to fly to New Delhi on Monday to apprise the high command of the political situation in Kerala.

Active monsoon brings rain over Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Southwest monsoon has been active all over Telangana with Mogdampalle, Sangareddy district receiving the highest rainfall recorded of 6.6 cm. Moderate rainfall (1.5 cm-6.4 cm) was received at few places all over State except Adilabad, Nirmal, Jagtial, Karimnagar, Hanmakonda, Warangal, Mahabubabad, Suryapet, Jangaon, and Jogulamba Gadwal districts.

Lean season

A fisherman mending his net during the lean fishing season that began recently. A scene at the Chellanam fishing harbour in Kochi. H. VIBHU

Kerala to campaign for notifying revised eco-sensitive zones of protected areas

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Kerala will campaign for notifying the revised proposals for eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) around the protected areas, prepared after excluding populated areas and human habitations.

Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change asked the Kerala government to clarify whether the revised proposals pending before it or the earlier ones could be considered for notification as ESZs. The State government had earlier submitted revised proposals for ESZs around 15 protected areas to the Ministry after making the ESZ of populated areas as zero in most cases. It had also kept the ESZ to the minimum level from the forest boundaries in areas where human habitations had come up.

Green rules: Kerala revised the ESZ following protest in human habitations located close to the forest boundaries. FILE PHOTO

The State revised the ESZ following widespread protest in human habitations located close to the forest boundaries. Incidentally, the revised proposals could not be finalised and notified as they lapsed after the 725-day validity period of the notifications expired.

The State had submitted 17 proposals for the declaration of ESZ around 23 protected areas on January 3, 2020, following which the Ministry published the draft notifications of 15, except for Periyar Tiger Reserve, on its website. The final notification for Mathikettan Shola National Park was issued on December 28, 2020.

The government decision to canvass for notifying the revised proposal attains significance in the wake of the Supreme Court directive on April 24 that its order for enforcing the one-km buffer for all protected areas shall not apply to the protected areas for which draft and final notifications were issued by the Ministry.

Forgery case: ex-SFI leader fails to turn up for questioning

The Hindu Bureau
KASARAGOD

K. Vidya cites poor health in e-mail to investigating team, says she will appear on Tuesday

Former Students Federation of India (SFI) leader K. Vidya, accused of forging an experience certificate, has said that she will not be able to appear before the Neeleswaram Police on Sunday for questioning.

On Saturday, the Neeleswaram Police had issued a notice summoning her for questioning in connection with a complaint filed by Government Arts and Science College, Karinthalam, that she had submitted a forged experience certificate from Maharajas College to get appointment as guest lecturer.

Ms. Vidya, in an e-mail to the investigating team, said she was unwell and would not be able to appear before the officials till 5 p.m. on Monday. She said she would be present on Tuesday.

On Saturday, the Mannarkkad munsiff magistrate court had granted bail to Ms. Vidya in the case. The bail was granted on the condition that she should not leave Kerala and should surrender her passport.

Two ancient Jain pillars attached to village tank's wall found near Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Historic find: The Jain sculptures found at Enikepalli village of Rangareddy district in Telangana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two pillars with sculptures of Jain Tirthankaras were found lying neglected on the outskirts of Hyderabad, at Enikepalli village in Rangareddy district. The pillars are part of the masonry walls of the sluice of the village tank.

E. Sivanagireddy, archaeologist and CEO of Pleach India Foundation, said he inspected the spot based on information given by P. Srinath Reddy, a young archaeologist.

He found two pillars, one made of granite and the other of black basalt, with sculptures of four Jain Tirthankaras – Adinatha, Neminatha, Parsvanatha and Vardhamana Mahavira.

There are inscriptions in Telugu-Kannada script. One inscription refers to a Janina Basadi (monastery) that existed during the Rashtrakuta and Vemulawada Chalukyan times (9th-10th centuries CE).

Mr. Sivanagireddy has appealed to the villagers to protect the pillars by placing them on a pedestal.

BRS MLA's daughter to return 'illegal' land

The Hindu Bureau
JANGAON

Continuing her tirade against her father and Jangaon MLA M. Yadagiri Reddy, Tulja Bhavani Reddy has reiterated allegations that her father "illegally registered" a piece of land in her name in Cherial municipality in Telangana's Siddipet district, a charge strongly denied by the BRS legislator.

Ms. Reddy on Sunday reached the site and removed a portion of the pre-cast compound wall around the land, said sources. She told the media that she will hand over the land to Cherial civic body after due legal process.

Infosys may take time to open campus in Vizag

V. Kamalakara Rao
VISAKHAPATNAM

Infosys is likely to take some time to open its campus at Rushikonda here. Though a message is going viral on social media that the IT major is opening its campus on June 28, the industry sources and the company representatives say the social media post is untrue.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Sunday, an Infosys source said, "The posts on social media that the Visakhapatnam campus is being opened on June 28 are fake."

However, the source said preparations were being made to open the office shortly, mostly by July or August. The exteriors of the building are nearing completion, while the interior work is underway.

While speaking at the CII Visakhapatnam Zone annual conference on 'Advantage Visakhapatnam, the Growth Engine of Andhra Pradesh' in February, Suresh Narra, Delivery Head of the company, said, "Infosys will start operations in Visakhapatnam in a few months."

On another occasion at the YSRCP office here recently, IT Minister Gudivada Amarnath told reporters that "Infosys is keen to start operations quickly by using the existing infrastructure."

Tenets of unity

Opposition parties have little more than rivalry with the BJP in common

The meeting of leaders of 15 Opposition parties, in Patna in Bihar on June 23, signals a new urgency among them to coordinate their campaigns against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the run-up to the 2024 general election. Against the backdrop of allegations that the BJP is misusing state power to corner the Opposition, the leaders talked up the import of the gathering; for instance, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin termed it a "war cry of a united opposition" for the "rebirth of a secular democratic India". In reality, the deliberations were exploratory, and the event was more for optics than devising any common strategy. The recent victory of the Congress against the BJP in the Karnataka Assembly elections has had a mixed impact on unity efforts. Some regional parties such as the Bharat Rashtra Samithi of Telangana now feel more threatened by the Congress than by the BJP. Parties such as the Samajwadi Party of Uttar Pradesh and the Trinamool Congress of West Bengal want the Congress to vacate the field or play second fiddle for the sake of a common candidate against the BJP in every constituency. Janata Dal (United) chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who is at the forefront of the unity effort, is not at the peak of his popularity or credibility.

The chemistry of any alliance is different from its arithmetic. The coming together of parties or leaders does not automatically lead to their voters coming together, as past experiences show. If at all the uphill objective of a single joint candidate against the BJP is achieved, that will be no guarantee of victory for the Opposition. It is natural for parties to change their views over time, but voters are smart enough to tell opportunism from an evolution of positions. A stark case in point is of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which rose to prominence by calling each of these Opposition leaders names, but now seeks their support to preserve its own power. There have to be some broad principles that tie parties of various ideological persuasions together. Federalism and secularism can be principles that bind the Opposition, and here again, AAP's vacillations are instructive. Attempts to shield leaders credibly accused of corruption in the name of secularism or federalism also may not go down well with the public. While calling into question the BJP's excesses and its problematic agenda, the Opposition parties must also introspect and take corrective measures to win public confidence. They must also anticipate multi-pronged responses by the BJP in the months ahead.

A new regime

India must keep an eye on adverse reactions from new drugs and vaccines

Last week, the Drug Controller General of India cleared, under the provisions of 'emergency use authorisation', a new mRNA vaccine for COVID-19 developed by Pune-based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals, a pioneer in India in developing mRNA vaccines. The vaccine is meant to be particularly effective against the dominant Omicron variant. With the World Health Organization having officially declared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no longer the obsessive public interest in new variants. Even less so in newer vaccines. Data suggest that the uptake of booster, or 'precautionary doses' of the array of COVID vaccines available in India has been declining for several months. Therefore, the significance of the new vaccine, GEMCOVAC-OM, is that it shows that an Indian company has the capability to make an mRNA vaccine, believed to be amenable to rapid production and scale-up, that could be useful against any future virus.

Normally, vaccines must go through progressive stages of testing, from petri dishes, to animals and expanding cohorts of human test subjects. Doing greater harm than good, or being unable to be better than the alternative in any of these stages is a ground for disqualification. Which is why vaccine development and approvals are a decades-long enterprise. During COVID-19, this risk-averse strategy was deemed unsuitable for the crisis at hand because of which drug regulators globally allowed vaccine makers to combine multiple stages while evaluating efficacy, thus giving greater leeway to experimental formulations. This underlines the basic framework of 'emergency use authorizations (EUA)' adopted by regulators globally. Unlike the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that has for many years been evaluating novel drug and vaccine candidates, India's regulatory system has largely been geared toward evaluating formulations that have been approved abroad and in assessing their suitability to India. Mistrust, arbitrary decree and lax regulations have historically plagued clinical trials in India. More than evidence-based assessment, it was a technicality in India's 'New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019' that allowed EUA in India for COVID-19 vaccines. A credible regime of phased, clinical trials and independent regulation for new drugs is still in its infancy in India. The FDA still authorises updated COVID-19 vaccines under emergency use provisions because while the pandemic is over, COVID-19 is not and thousands continue to die globally. This alone, however, cannot be the basis for continuing with the EUA regime in India. While the flexibility to accelerate should always be present, India must specify a streamlined regulatory process that weeds out non-essential steps but is hawk-eyed on safety and adverse reactions from new drugs and vaccines.

Manipur — this is not a time for finger-pointing

Pradip Phanjoubam

is Editor, Imphal Review of Arts and Politics

Manipur's unfolding and extended tragedy, in which two of the State's major communities, the Kukis and Meiteis, have been on a bloody communal clash since May 3, is proving how utterly meaningless all the contests to score debating points on the media are; equally, it shows how empty all political posturing and vaunts can be in matters of resolving deadly conflicts.

After nearly two months, the State remains tense, with over 120 lives lost. While this cannot be reversed, there are also another estimated 45,000 displaced people in several temporary community-run relief camps on both sides of the divide. For their sake, first and foremost, all posturing must end so that all stakeholders in this conflict theatre – not just the Kukis and Meiteis – can sit down together to evolve a way forward, with consensus, including structural administrative changes agreeable to all, and for the benefit of all.

The interlink in mutual welfare

The emphasis on consensus is important. The truth is what one community does impacts other communities even if they live separately. The integral geography of hills and valleys, and rivers and lakes predestines this, and any move to disrupt this integrity can be an affront on the sense of security of another. Robert D. Kaplan in *The Revenge of Geography: What the Map Tells Us About Coming Conflicts and the Battle Against Fate*, and before him, Halford J. Mackinder in *The Geographical Pivot of History*, have shown us how some of the deadliest conflicts in the world were always implicit in shared geographical destinies. We are seeing this in Russia's response to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's overtures in Ukraine, and indeed in India's own response to the Chinese incursion in the Bhutanese territory of Doklam, in 2017.

The current standoff in Manipur should have already shown how much the hills and valley depend on each other for their mutual welfare. In this relationship, it is also to be expected that the valley would feel a little more vulnerable, though this is also where topographical and agricultural advantages resulted in State formation first. James C. Scott profiles this friction between "Paddy States" and "non-state bearing" populations living in surrounding mountains in *The Art of Not Being Governed - An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. The 'imagined nation' of these valleys, therefore, have always included a sense of control of the surrounding hills where their mountain passes are, and rivers originate.

> The priority now must be to restore normalcy; even if there are 'scores' left to be settled, the inter-community duelling must stop

The Meiteis' near paranoic concern about Manipur's territorial integrity must be understood in this light. Independent India choosing to inherit a skewed land law introduced by the British has ensured that they are today confined in the small Imphal Valley. The British had their compulsions. When they set foot in the northeast in 1826, they had also to deal with Scott's "non-state bearing" populations of hunter gatherers, whose community affiliation seldom extended beyond their villages. The British had either to subjugate each of them and bring them under their direct rule or else leave them alone under their remote gaze. They chose the latter and found it more convenient to associate with the centralised bureaucracies of "Paddy States" there. Hence, after annexing Assam, they promulgated the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873 to draw an "Inner Line" along the foot of the hills that surrounded the floodplains of Assam. Bodhisattva Kar in an essay "When Was the Postcolonial?: A History of Policing Impossible Lines", characterises this as giving "a territorial frame to capital", separating the "modern from primitive". Without actually drawing an "Inner Line", this governance mechanism was also introduced in Manipur after 1891, when Manipur became a British protectorate state.

Acknowledge Meitei pain

Many now talk of an ethnic cleansing happening in Manipur, and this may actually become so if nothing is done to ensure the displaced can return home safely. What most miss, however, is a silent and seemingly non-aggressive ethnic cleansing of Meiteis from Manipur's hills in the decades since India's Independence. The pain of those forced to flee in the wake of the present crisis is heart-wrenching, but it is time to also acknowledge the accumulated pain and humiliation of confinement Meiteis would have had to bear, which is not trivial. Hence, their demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status is also a desperate cry against this sense of besiegement.

This should also explain – though not justify – the shockingly violent response of Meiteis to the carnage on the afternoon of May 3 in the Torbung area of Churachandpur district. In this incident, Meitei villagers were seen on the Internet even as they were fleeing arson attacks by Kuki mobs, desperately appealing for help. When it became evident the government was not doing anything to control the violence, a dark, primordial and amoral energy within the larger Meitei society began churning not just in response to the immediate affront but also fired by a subterranean sense, reasonable or not, of a civilisational and even existential threat. The violence that followed is unimaginably wild and indiscriminate – ambulances, schools, ministerial bungalows and residences, men, women and children, all became targets.

Some onlookers think that two organisations, Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, are the creators of this mayhem. This is simplistic. These organisations (which few would have heard of before this crisis) may have been the first responders to the Torbung mayhem (and may still be a part of the problem), but are hardly the problem in its entirety. In Freudian terms, what is being witnessed in the Meitei society now is the primordial, malevolent, infantile, Id, shattering the ceiling of civilisational control of the Superego, while the rational Ego is made powerless and irrelevant. In this surge of dark energy, it is amazing how an entire community can mobilise itself on such a large scale, and it is frightening to witness the readiness to kill, or die – of ordinary men and women. This must be what made W.B. Yeats exclaim, "A terrible beauty is born", though there is little to distinguish this beauty from the beast.

For the Kukis

The Kukis too have been made to suffer long from unjust humiliations and sense of persecution by the insensitive manner in which the government pushed policies such as drives against poppy plantation, illegal migration and encroachment into reserved forests. The hurt this would have caused should explain why only Kukis and not Nagas reacted in extreme violence on May 3 though both were in the same rally organised to protest the proposal to include Meiteis in the ST list.

However, this is not the time for "who started it" or "who did more damage" finger-pointing. The return of normalcy must be the priority, and this initiative should begin from the leadership at the very top. Even if they have scores left to be settled, they must end the duelling for now. Along with this, to dispel all doubt of involvement of Kuki militants under the Suspension of Operation agreement in this conflict, the Assam Rifles must provide conclusive evidence of all cadres being back in their designated camps. Once this is done, it should be easier to have all weapons looted from police stations in the valley areas either returned or recovered. In this, the shining example of Mahatma Gandhi's courage in calling off the Non-Cooperation Movement on February 12, 1922 after the violent Chouri Choura incident is there to emulate.

Outreach to diaspora and statesmanship

V. Suryanarayan

is the Founding Director and Senior Professor (retired), Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Madras

In a speech while addressing the Tamil diaspora in Tokyo in the course of his overseas tour in May 2023, to Singapore and Japan, to attract investments to the State, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin, had said that the Government of Tamil Nadu would protect the Tamil diaspora that has spread far and wide in search of education, business, and employment. He added that protecting the Tamil language meant protecting the Tamil community. He held forth the promise that his government and the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) would extend all support to the Tamil community.

Diaspora facts

Among the Indian diaspora, Tamils constitute a substantial number. They form the overwhelming majority of the Indian population in Malaysia, Singapore, and Sri Lanka, are in good numbers in Myanmar, Mauritius, South Africa, the Seychelles, the Re-Union Islands, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Australia, New Zealand, the Gulf countries, the United States and Canada, Britain and the European countries.

These dynamic groups have three identities – first, the Tamil identity; second, the Indian identity, and third, the identity of the countries in which they have settled. Equally interesting is the phenomenon of the diaspora of the diaspora. From Fiji, Malaysia, and Singapore, the Indian diaspora is migrating to greener pastures such as Australia, Canada, and the U.S. Bharati Mukherjee, the well-known diasporic writer, was apt in saying: "I am a woman with a series of countries. It is necessary for me to put down roots wherever I land and wherever I choose to stay."

It would be simplistic and naïve to assume that the hopes that they entertain and the problems that they face are identical. It is closely related to the nature of their migration, their numerical numbers, their educational and professional attainments, their economic clout, and, above all, the majority-minority syndrome in the host countries. The Tamil diaspora has excelled in politics, economics, literature, the fine arts, sports, and science. A few names that shine include Dr. Chandrasekhar, Monty Naicker, Sambandan, Janaki Thevar, T.S. Maniam, Saumiyamoorthy Thondaman, S.R. Nathan, Muthiah Muralitharan, Nagamattoo, Indira Nooyi, Sundar Pichai, Raghuram Rajan and Kamala Harris.

> In protecting the interests of the Indian diaspora, State governments need to work with the central government

Host country policies, their impact

Mr. Stalin's speech is a reminder of two statements made by Jawaharlal Nehru, in Malaya in March 1946 – "When India becomes free, her hands will be long and powerful to protect each and every one of her children abroad." And, "Indians abroad must remain united and guard their rights and uphold their heads proudly as Indians – children of a country with a great past and greater future."

But Nehru's hopes were soon shattered. The first legislative enactment of Ceylon, soon after independence, was to render the Indian Tamils, who were taken to Ceylon under the protective umbrella of the British Government, to provide labour in the tea plantations. Nehru's principled stand was that all those who considered Ceylon to be their home and have stayed there for long should be conferred citizenship. Ceylon argued that it was its sovereign right to introduce citizenship regulations.

The Burmese government never granted citizenship to thousands of Indian Tamils and expelled them. On the eve of their departure, the Burmese currency was demonetised. The women could not even bring their *mangalyasutra* with them. As far as neighbouring countries are concerned, bilateral relations have two dimensions.

The first is to improve relations with governments, politically, economically, and culturally. The second is to protect and foster the interests of Indian minority groups. An overview of India's policy towards Sri Lanka shows that to improve political relations, New Delhi, on some occasions, was willing to sacrifice the interests of the Indian diaspora. The Sirimavo-Shastri Pact of October 1964 is an example of betrayal. New Delhi adopted the policy of give and take and converted the Indian Tamil community into merchandise to be divided between the two countries. It must be highlighted that all important leaders of the Madras Presidency, Rajagopalachari, Kamaraj Nadar, C.N. Annadurai, P. Ramamurti, and Krishna Menon were opposed to the agreement.

Mr. Stalin has highlighted the necessity to protect and promote the Tamil language. But the sad fact remains is that in many countries, the Tamil community has forgotten the Tamil language, one of the key elements of Tamil culture.

Federal camaraderie is essential

The policy towards the Indian diaspora comes under the exclusive jurisdiction of the central government. Even then, State governments can influence policies by building public opinion. What is essential, in the present context, is camaraderie and friendship between the Narendra Modi government and the DMK government.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), could have used the term 'persecuted minorities'. The CAA also does not include Sri Lanka, where ethnic fratricide has compelled many Tamils to come to Tamil Nadu as refugees. New Delhi terms Sri Lankan Tamil refugees as illegal immigrants and argues that they must go back to Sri Lanka.

Instead of trying to have cordial relations with the central government, a policy of confrontation by Tamil Nadu would be self-defeating. What the refugees want is Indian citizenship. All of them fulfil the residential qualifications laid down in the Indian Citizenship Act. Indian Tamil refugees, who number 29,500, are stateless. What is more, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees are willing to surrender their Sri Lankan citizenship to get Indian citizenship.

The need of the hour is for the state and central government to come together and arrive at an amicable solution. This calls for statesmanship, not political opportunism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Russian security crisis

Russian President Vladimir Putin could be lucky that Russia has escaped a bloodbath. The Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is perhaps right in saying that the Wagner mutiny has exposed the ingrained weakness of Russia.

Those who commit crime could well be paid back in the same coin. This is a lesson to Mr. Putin who was on weak ground in attacking Ukraine. His aim of aggrandisement may soon hit an obstacle.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

It is a pity that a superpower such as Russia was relying on a mercenary army that has no benevolence and ethics. Nevertheless, it is a relief that the crisis in Russia could have ended.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

Regardless of whether the armed rebellion has brought into focus the loosening grip of Mr. Putin over the country's affairs or not, it reflects the fact that all is not well within his administration. With Russian forces still struggling to make any significant advances in Ukraine, the open revolt against Mr. Putin could be a game changer.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Animals and war

Reports about the Russian military using marine mammals to bolster the defence of areas in its control are worrisome. It is obnoxious to put animal life, already much harmed by wars, to such deliberate risk. As it is, much harm is caused to animal life due to the testing of weapons on land and sea. Armed forces need to evolve a code of ethical conduct proscribing the harm they can cause to non-human life, whether in war-games and the testing of weapons or in situations of actual combat. Finally, international bodies committed to advancing animal welfare also need to address the issue.

Firoz Ahmad,
New Delhi

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The united States of India

N. Manohar Reddy

is an Assistant Professor at the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

In an important discussion in *The Hindu* (June 2, 2023), the scholars argued that what distinguishes the south from the north politically is its language of politics, its regional parties and their demand for more power to the States, its multiple languages and cultures, its countercultures built through various anti-caste, anti-Brahmin and rationalist movements, its higher economic status and its investment in education, modern institutions, industrial infrastructure, etc. while the north lagged in most of these aspects.

Linguistic movements

On similar lines, in 1956, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar argued that the north was conservative, superstitious and educationally backward, whereas the south was progressive, rational and educationally forward. He criticised Jawaharlal Nehru for practising Brahminical rituals. He did not spare President Rajendra Prasad for worshipping the Brahmins in Banaras, washing their toes, and drinking that water. Thus, Ambedkar wondered how, under such leadership, the south would tolerate "the rule of the north." Even today, his observation seems pertinent considering how the north has nurtured hard-liner Hindutva politics, while the south has barred the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from entering its political landscape. Thus, the perplexing question is: what makes the south such a formidable fortress where the BJP has no presence now?

To understand that, we must look at the most important historical factor that distinguishes the two regions: the linguistic nationality movements, which imagined India as a federation of nationalities. While the north imagined India as a homogenous nation that resonates with the Hindi-Hindu-Hindustan slogan, the south aspired to build India as a federation of nationalities. The print and publishing culture led to the formation of distinct linguistic public spheres in the south, which were further consolidated by cinema, mainly through the mediation of film stars such as M.G. Ramachandran (Tamil), N.T. Rama Rao (Telugu) and Rajkumar (Kannada). By the early 20th century, different linguistic communities in the south began to claim nationality status for themselves. The leaders were inspired by the political developments in Europe where, in the aftermath of major revolutions, new nations were founded based on linguistic identity with the political objective of achieving 'popular sovereignty.'

Linguistic identity had proven to be secular, flexible and more inclusive than religious or racial identities, so the then Madras Presidency leaders consciously tried to cultivate it. The middle-class intelligentsia from the south recognised the crucial connection between language and liberal democracy. For a democracy to function, it is essential to employ the language of the common people in the domains of education, administration and judiciary, without which equality and justice cannot be realised. Also, to perform this new role, people's languages needed to be modernised adequately. However, all these, it was believed, would be possible only when India was created as a federation of nationalities. These languages would perish if India were forced into a single homogenous nation. Even a cursory look at the condition of the languages of the south today makes it clear that such fears are vindicated. As early as 1913, Konda Venkatappayya and Pattabhi Sitaramayya, the leaders of the Andhra Mahasabha, warned the Congress party leadership against creating a unitary India, which, by default, would be based on the Hindu religious identity of the majoritarian population. Later, Puchhalapalli Sundarayya (Telugu), Annadurai and Periyar (Tamil), E.M.S. Namboodiripad (Malayalam), and much later, V.K. Gokak (Kannada) and others spoke and wrote on the importance of creating India as a federation.

The need for a strong bond

The Andhra Mahasabha leaders, in particular, argued that India was not a nation but a subcontinent of multiple nationalities (similar to the European Union), and a unitary India would be unsuitable for democracy, which required the sovereign-citizens to participate in the decision-making processes of the nation-state actively. They argued that no single language could facilitate such a process for the entire subcontinent. Moreover, a strong nation needs strong bonding among its people. But the population of the Indian subcontinent spoke multiple languages, so no single language could bind them all as a national community. The idea that Hindi could keep India together, a fallacy that continues even today, emanates from the gross misunderstanding that it could bind people who do not speak it. We know that the French language could unite the people who spoke it. Or Tamil could unite the people who used it in their everyday life. However, to believe that Hindi could unite people from Kerala and Punjab or West Bengal who do not speak that language is to believe in the impossible.

After independence, the Congress made peace with the south through a compromise formula of agreeing to create linguistic States with limited powers granted by the Constitution. Still, they were far from the nationalities envisaged by the Andhra Mahasabha. The right-wing Hindu groups vehemently opposed the idea of the federation and continue to do so as it would undermine their dream of creating a homogenous Hindu nation. In the end, while the Indian state has triumphed over the nationalities of the south, the ghosts of the latter continue to haunt the champions of the former, at least during elections.

While the Indian state has triumphed over the nationalities of the south, the ghosts of the latter continue to haunt the champions of the former, at least during elections

The divided house of JACs

Joint Action Committees are regrouping and could affect the prospects of BRS

STATE OF PLAY

R. Ravikanth Reddy
ravikanth.ramasayam@thehindu.co.in

The Joint Action Committees (JACs) which fought for the realisation of statehood for Telangana and then went into a slumber once the State was formed are now regrouping.

The JACs were headed by senior professors from various universities and student leaders. During the movement, between 2009 and 2014, they were largely united in their mission. But today, they are divided. While some of them have been gearing up to take on the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) government, which they say has failed Telangana, a few others have been supporting the government and highlighting its achievements of the last nine years. The Telangana government celebrated State formation day for 21 days beginning June 2 in a big way.

'Intellectual' support

Recently, a group of former JAC heads met informally and said that anger against the government has to be channelised properly, as was the case during the agitation for statehood. They plan to invite all the big players of the movement days, including student JAC leaders from Osmania University and Kakatiya University, which were the epicentres of the agitation, and conduct an open session. They plan to regroup in order to provide 'intellectual' support to the opposition parties. Prominent among them are Warangal JAC chairman, T. Papi Reddy, and Osmania University Students JAC leader, Pidamarthi Ravi, who are reportedly set to join the Congress. Both of them were initially patronised by

the government: Mr. Reddy went on to head the Telangana State Council of Higher Education, while Mr. Ravi fought the Assembly elections on a Telangana Rashtra Samithi (now BRS) ticket. He lost, but he was made the Chairman of the Telangana Scheduled Castes Cooperative Development Corporation.

There is also reportedly pressure on M. Kodandaram to reactivate the groups that enjoyed mass support during the movement. Mr. Kodandaram was Chairman of the all-party Telangana JAC, which was the umbrella organisation for the JACs from the village to the State level. Each District JAC played an active role in mobilising people's support during the movement.

Those who are trying to regroup argue that they are not trying to revive the JACs, but play a non-political role by raising societal issues which the BRS has neglected. They argue that the BRS has misused its power and killed the democratic spirit in Telangana and is also busy promoting family rule. They see the government as oppressive and say that it has ignored the student community. They believe that as a group, they have the capacity to negate the narratives created by the BRS government on good governance.

On the other hand, several intellectuals and journalists also support the government. Ghanta Chakrapani, a senior journalist who countered the pro-united Andhra Pradesh forces with his incisive analysis, as well as a few employee union leaders support the BRS government. Professor Chakrapani was made the Chairman of the Telangana State Public Service Commission when the new State was born. Some of the other JAC heads went on to become Vice Chancellors or occupy political positions. Though these people have not declared officially that they favour the government, the fact that they have been highlighting Telangana's development achievements on various platforms could be an indication of their stand.

Many JAC leaders have had an unpredictable relationship with Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao. While some of them supported him initially, they later became his worst critics, while some others have maintained a distance from him.

Political churning

As Telangana gears up for the Assembly elections, which are scheduled to be held at the end of this year, it remains to be seen how this political churning could affect the BRS's prospects. If some of these anti-BRS forces work efficiently, the direct beneficiary would be the Congress. This is because first, it was the United Progressive Alliance government which created a separate Telangana and second, the BJP would likely be the last party that these intellectuals would support. The outcome of the recent Karnataka Assembly elections has also given these groups a much-needed push to dethrone the BRS government and bring to power an alternative party.

Uneven progress: Stark inter-district disparities in Tamil Nadu

While Tamil Nadu leads in most socioeconomic indicators compared to other States, development is confined to certain pockets

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Hudson Joshiya J., Jibrail Ismail

Tamil Nadu is a standout performer along many socioeconomic indicators compared to most States. It features among the three best States in terms of the share of women who ever attended school, low infant mortality rate and the low share of stunted children. It leads the country in terms of gross enrolment ratio in higher education.

These numbers are part of the long-standing argument that the southern States generally perform better than other States, especially those in the north. While the argument holds merit, an analysis of district-level data shows that development is restricted to certain pockets of Tamil Nadu. The differences between advanced districts such as Chennai, Kanniyakumari and Coimbatore and relatively poor districts such as Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Ariyalur, and Perambalur are vast in many of the socioeconomic indicators considered for this analysis.

This is the first story in a series of Data Points exploring inter-district disparities in southern States. In this edition, Tamil Nadu's district-wise variations are analysed across eight indicators.

Chart 1 shows the share of households that used clean fuel (electricity, LPG/natural gas, biogas) for cooking in 2019-21. Close to 98% of households in Chennai used clean fuel compared to Pudukkottai's 42%. The western districts – Coimbatore, Erode, Tirupur (>95% usage each) – were better off compared to many southern/eastern coastal districts such as Tiruvarur, Pudukkottai, and Nagapattinam (<60% usage each).

Chart 2 shows the share of households that used an improved sanitation facility in 2019-21. Kanniyakumari's share was 96.2% compared to Viluppuram's 53.8%. Most of the central districts including Ariyalur, Perambalur, Karur, Salem, Tiruchirappalli and south western districts such as Virudhunagar and Dindigul lagged behind with less than 70% of such households.

Chart 3 shows the share of children under 5 years who were stunted (low height for age) in 2019-21. In Karur, 33.6% of children were stunted compared to 18% in Tiruvallur. While northern coastal districts such as Chennai, Kancheepuram and Cuddalore were relatively better (with around 20% or less of stunted children), northern interior districts such as Vellore, Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri were worse (more than 28%).

Chart 4 shows the share of women aged 20-24 years who married as teenagers. In the central districts of Salem and Perambalur, more than 21% were married as teenagers – much higher than the 1.9% in Chennai.

Chart 5 shows the share of schools which had a computer in their premises (2021-22). In many southern districts such as Thoothukudi, Tenkasi and Tirunelveli, the share was less than 65%, whereas it was nearly 90% in Chennai and Viluppuram.

Chart 6 shows the number of people employed in micro, small and medium enterprises (2020-21) for every one lakh people in the population. Most such companies were concentrated in Chennai, Tiruppur, and Coimbatore.

Chart 7 shows the latest estimates of the multidimensional poverty index (0: least poor, 1: most poor). The MPI measures deprivations across health, education and standard of living. Chennai and Kanniyakumari featured near 0 while Pudukkottai was the worst-performing district.

Chart 8 shows the net district domestic product at current prices in 2019-20 (in lakh). The northern coastal districts led by a wide margin while most of the southern/eastern coastal regions lagged far behind.

Development divide

The charts are based on data collated from the National Family Health Survey, the UDISE, the Tamil Nadu government statistics and the Tamil Nadu human development report

Central · North coastal · Western · South western · Northern interior · Southern · Southern/eastern coastal

Chart 1 : Households that used clean cooking fuel (%)

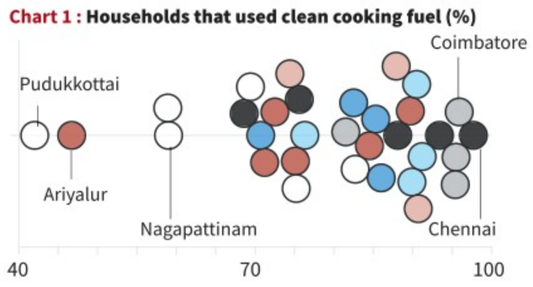


Chart 2 : Households that used an improved sanitation facility (%)

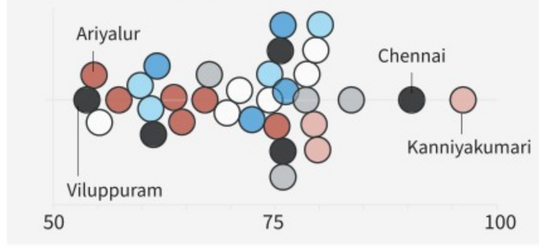


Chart 3: Share of children under 5 years who were stunted (%)

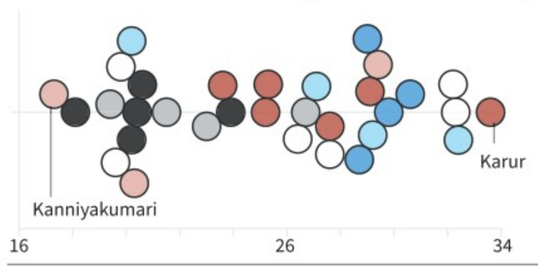


Chart 4: Share of women married as teenagers (%)

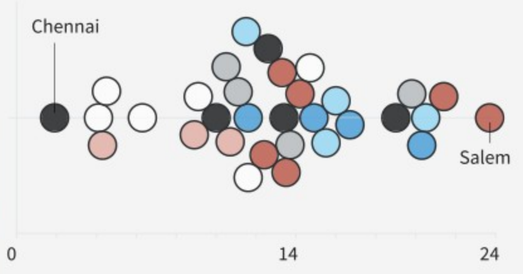


Chart 5: Schools that had a computer available (%)

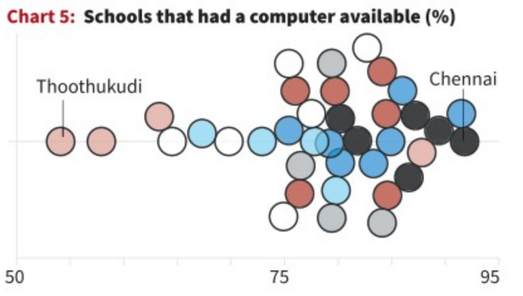


Chart 6: Per capita employment in MSME (per 1 lakh people)

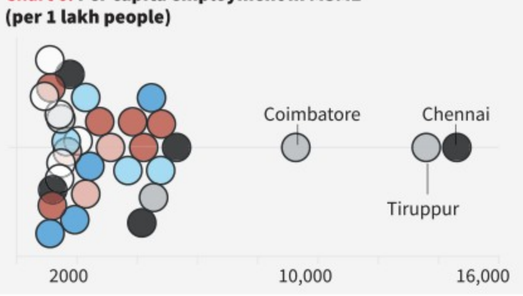


Chart 7: Multidimensional poverty index

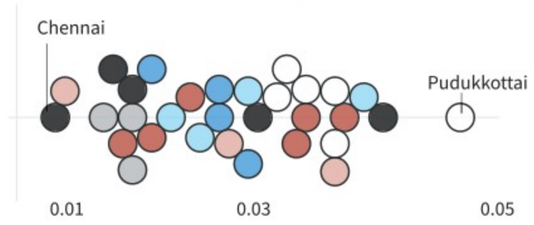
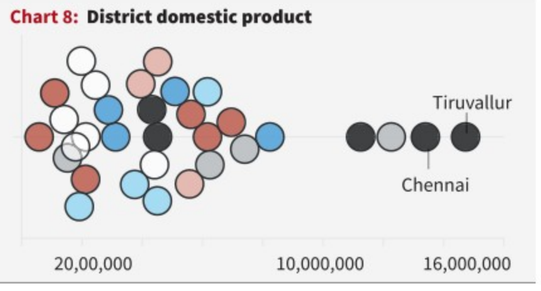


Chart 8: District domestic product



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 26, 1973

National wage policy under study by govt.

New Delhi, June 25: The Union Government does not believe in wage freeze as a principle. Nor will the Government interfere with the labour's right to strike, said Mr. K.V. Raghunatha Reddy, Union Minister for Labour, here to-day while addressing a press conference. Mr. Reddy said the Government was considering the question of evolving a national wage policy, though it was not thinking in terms of a wage freeze. A committee, headed by Dr. S. Chakravarthy, Member, Planning Commission, had gone into the question of a national wage policy and submitted its report which was under the Government's consideration. The Minister said the trade union's leadership had fully realised the gravity of the economic situation and while pressing labour's demands, had responded favourably to the importance of keeping up production. He further said that difficulties had arisen mostly with the employers in the dispute between management and labour. Replying to questions, Mr. Reddy did not indicate whether the Government would constitute a new wage board for journalists. The matter would have to go to the Union Cabinet. Mr. Reddy met pressmen after his return from Geneva where he attended the 58th session of the International Labour Conference. Among the subjects discussed at the conference, the Minister said, was the role of multinational corporations particularly in the developing countries and the impact of their operations on the working class.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 26, 1923

Glass factory at Kabul

Delhi, June 25: It is understood that the Amir of Afghanistan has granted important concessions to a local firm of industrialists for starting a glass factory at Kabul. A few weeks back a party consisting of Messrs Harchand Rajnarain and D.S. Swamie of the local glass factory proceeded to Kabul on invitation from the Amir's Government with the view to examine facilities for glass manufacture in the latter place. The party has just returned to Delhi and it is stated that the preparations are being made to complete a contract and start the work of erecting a factory at Kabul.

From Page One

Manipur CM Biren says will reach out to Kukis

According to a source, the Chief Minister was told that he cannot be seen to have sympathy for any particular community and that the crackdown on violence has to begin irrespective of the community involved. "The Chief Minister was told that he has to drive home the point among the Meitei that Kukis will be reached out to. He has to convince the people and take care of the State in a bipartisan manner," the source said.

The Meira Paibis have been leading protests and blockades, at times obstructing the security forces from carrying out operations. On Saturday, 12 members of a banned extremist outfit detained by the Army had to be released as a 1,200-strong women-led group surrounded the security forces in Imphal East, the Army said.

Mr. Singh revealed that Internet in the State was unlikely to be restored soon as the situation was not conducive. However, curfew hours were being relaxed in many areas, he noted. There were enough Central security forces in the State and additional force was not required, he added.

Mr. Singh was accompanied by BJP Manipur incharge Sambit Patra, Rajya Sabha member Sanajaoba Leishemba and State Assembly Speaker Satyabrata Singh. Tapan Kumar Deka, Director of Intelligence Bureau, was also present at the meeting. Mr. Singh tweeted that under Mr. Shah's close supervision, the Centre and State government have been able to control the violence to a great extent in the past week. "It may be noted that there has been no report of casualties due to the violence since 13th of June," he said.

"Hon'ble Union HM has assured that the Union government will take all possible steps to bring normalcy in Manipur. Further, Amit Shah Ji advised us to strengthen our work towards achieving everlasting peace and also sought the cooperation of every stakeholders in Manipur to ensure that peace prevails in the State," the tweet said.

Sightseeing tour: PM Narendra Modi with his Egyptian counterpart, Mostafa Madbouly, on Sunday. PTI

Modi, Sisi ink deal on strategic partnership

The two sides discussed multilateral cooperation at the G-20 and other subjects such as food, energy security and climate change. Earlier on Sunday, in a special gesture from Mr. Sisi, Mr. Modi received the Order of the Nile, the topmost state honour of Egypt. Among the past recipients of this honour were the late Sultan Qaboos (the ruler of Oman), Nelson Mandela and Suharto, former President of Indonesia. "It is with great humility that I accept the 'Order of the Nile'. I thank the Government and people of Egypt for this honour. It indicates the warmth and affection they have towards India and the people of our nation," Mr. Modi said after receiving the honour.

During the official discussion held at the Al-Ittihadiya Palace of Cairo, the two leaders noted that the newly formed 'India Unit' in the Egyptian Cabinet will be a "useful tool in steering bilateral collaborations", the Ministry of External Affairs said. Mr. Modi and Mr. Sisi had a "one to one" conversation, Mr. Kwatra added. Mr. Modi visited the Heliopolis Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery which paid homage to over 4,300 Indian soldiers who had perished in Egypt and Aden during World War I. He met members of the Indian community as scheduled and visited the Al Hakim mosque.

Foreign medical graduates seek help

The problem started when these students were forced to return to India during the COVID pandemic. After passing the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination (FMGE) and despite having completed their compulsory one-year internship as mandated by the National Medical Commission (NMC), a notice that was issued on July 28, 2022, was being enforced retrospectively, they noted.

The notice said that Indian students, who were in the last year of the undergraduate (UG) medicine course and had completed the final year online, on or before June 30, 2022, would be permitted for FMGE and upon qualifying, would be completing the compulsory rotating medical internship (CRMI) for two years.

The Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA) wrote to Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, and pointed out that a few SMCs were refusing to issue permanent registration status to the students. Explaining that discrepancies, FORDA general secretary Sarvesh Pandey said this was now playing havoc with the lives of 3,000-5,000 doctors. States such as Delhi, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have denied or withheld permanent registration for FMGE candidates with one year of internship experience, whereas States like Gujarat, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Orissa, Telangana and Karnataka have issued the permanent registration.

Pricing, terms of MQ-9B drone deal with U.S. yet to be finalised, says govt.

Ministry says it will compare the acquisition cost with the best price offered to other countries by General Atomics; adds 'speculative reports' on social media were aimed at derailing the process

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Rejecting "speculative reports" on social media with regard to the price and other terms of purchase of 31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) from the U.S., the Defence Ministry on Sunday said the estimated cost provided by the U.S. government was $3.072 billion, but the price and other terms and conditions of the purchase were "yet to be finalised".

The Ministry said it would "compare the acquisition cost with the best price offered" by General Atomics (GA) to other countries.

The Defence Acquisition Council accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) on June 15 for the acquisition of 31 MQ-9B – 16 Sky Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian – UAVs for the three services through the Foreign Military Sale (FMS) route. The AoN included the number of UAVs to be procured along with associated equipment.

Lethal weapon: The U.S. government has provided an estimated cost of $3.072 billion for 31MQ-9B, says the Defence Ministry. PTI

"The AoN noted the estimated cost of $3,072 million provided by the U.S. government. However, price will be negotiated once policy approval of the U.S. Government is received. The MoD will compare the acquisition cost with the best price offered by General Atomics (GA) to other countries," a Ministry statement said.

Letter of Request

"The procurement is in progress and would be completed as per the laid down procedure."

Detailing the process to be followed, the Ministry said that under the FMS route, a Letter of Request (LOR) would be sent to the U.S. government where triservices' requirements, details of equipment and terms of the procurement would be included.

"Based on LOR, the U.S. Government and MoD will finalise the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) where details of equipment and terms of the procurement would be negotiated and finalised in accordance with the FMS program and the price and terms offered by the U.S. Government and GA to other countries," it stated.

In this regard, referring to the "speculative reports" on social media with respect to the price and other terms of purchase, the Ministry said these were "uncalled for, have ulterior motives and aimed at derailing the due acquisition process". "Price and other terms and conditions of the purchase are yet to be finalised and subject to negotiations," the statement added requesting not to spread fake news and misinformation which can have a serious impact on the "morale of the armed forces and adversely impact the acquisition process."

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, the LoR is expected to be sent to the U.S. government in the first week of July and defence officials said the process was expected to take a few months.

India is also negotiating to increase the indigenous content in the deal, from the current 8%-9% to 15%-20% which will significantly increase sourcing from Indian industry.

Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Okram Ibobi and CPI leader D. Raja during a press conference in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'While Manipur is burning, PM silent, Shah ineffective'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Centre over the situation in violence-hit Manipur, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday alleged that while the northeastern State is "burning", Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "silent", Home Minister Amit Shah was "ineffective" and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is "non-functional".

Mr. Ramesh made the remarks at a national convention on peace in Manipur at the Harkishan Singh Surjeet Bhavan. In a tweet later, Mr. Ramesh said that he participated in the convention organised by 10 like-minded political parties to share his thoughts on the political, administrative and humanitarian disasters in Manipur.

"You cannot have unanimity but you can have consensus. That is how the Constitution of India was made.... So, it is through consensus, only through listening to everybody, being sensitive that you can really restore trust [in Manipur]. It is going to be a long process. It is not going to happen in weeks, it is going to take months, it may take years but we have to start the process," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications said at the convention.

Mr. Ramesh said that to move ahead, the Chief Minister should be replaced immediately.

Then, he said, two fundamental steps need to be taken – disarm all armed groups ruthlessly without any discrimination and begin the process of creating an atmosphere of trust, harmony and reconciliation.

Pak. Army deploying new Chinese cannon on LoC, say officials

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

China has been helping the Pakistan Army build its defence infrastructure, besides providing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, setting up communication towers and laying underground cables along the Line of Control, officials said.

This, according to officials, is part of efforts to further shore up China's position as an all-weather friend of Pakistan while ensuring the safety of growing Chinese enclaves in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) set up on the pretext of securing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) road and hydel projects built in the occupied territory. The officials said that the recently developed SH-15, a 155 mm truck-mounted howitzer gun, has also been spotted at some places along the Line of Control (LoC) after it was displayed on Pakistan Day last year.

Known as a 'shoot and scoot' artillery weapon, Pakistan had signed a contract with Chinese firm North Industries Group Corporation Limited (Norinco) for the supply of 236 SH-15s and, according to London-based *Janes Defence* magazine, the first batch was delivered in January 2022.

Though no senior PLA officials were observed at forward posts, some intercepts suggested that Chinese troops and engineers were setting up infrastructure along the LoC, the officials said.

Modi govt. is strangulating MGNREGS in the name of digitisation, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

One of the basic objectives of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was to minimise distress migration but excessive reliance on technology was reversing the trend, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Sunday.

He was reacting to *The Hindu*'s report flagging high deletion rate of registered MGNREGS workers due to a mismatch between job card and Aadhaar card details. The deletion rates have spiked because the Centre made Aadhaar-based payments mandatory from June 30. "One of the basic objectives of MGNREGA was to minimise distress migration. That had happened. Now technology use seems to reversing the trend and not just in Odisha. The Modi Govt. is strangulating MGNREGA in the name of digitalisation," Mr. Ramesh said in a tweet.

> MGNREGA aimed to minimise distress migration. Now technology use seems to reversing the trend
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader

By June 23, 61 lakh workers had been deleted, with the various reasons cited ranging from "not willing to work" to "fake job cards", amounting to net deletion of 1.16% of registered workers. According to an analysis by research group Lib Tech, the financial year 2022-23 saw a 244.3% hike in the number of deleted workers. From 1.49 crore deletions in 2021-22, with net deletion at 1.8%, the numbers climbed to 5.13 crore deletions in 2022-23 with net deletion rate of 14.28%.

While the Union Rural Development Ministry has said that the exercise is aimed at weeding out corruption, *The Hindu*'s field visit to Rayagada district in Odisha, which has one of the highest rate of deletions, found that many genuine workers have also been left out.

Two killed in heavy rain, flash floods in Himachal

Press Trust of India
SHIMLA/HAMIRPUR

Flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh's Solan and Hamirpur districts and heavy rain in Shimla, Mandi and Kullu on Sunday killed two people, damaged crops, homes and vehicles, and washed away livestock.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, one person drowned in Hamirpur and Shimla district each. The rain also damaged 11 houses and vehicles each as well as four cowsheds.

The State suffered estimated losses of ₹78 lakh in the past 24 hours, it said.

Three houses were damaged in Lahaul and Spiti, five in Hamirpur, two in Solan and one in Mandi.

Goods train overshoots signal, hits a maintenance train and derails in Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Eight wagons of a goods train overturned after it collided with a maintenance train and derailed at the Ondagram railway station in Bankura district of West Bengal on Sunday.

Around 4 a.m., the goods train overshot the red signal and hit a stationary maintenance train. This led to derailment of the trains. While the train lines remained closed for nearly four hours after the accident, the services were restored by 7.45 a.m.

Locopilot suspended

A locopilot, assistant locopilot and two chief loco inspectors have been suspended, a spokesperson of South Eastern Railway said. Overshooting the red signal is considered a grave offence and can cost the loco pilot and others involved their jobs.

This is the second such incident in June raising doubts about railway safety in the South Eastern Railway zone. On June 2, in a collision involving two passenger trains and one goods train, nearly 290 passengers died and over a thousand were injured.

Crash course: People taking part in the rescue operation after two trains collided in Bankura district of West Bengal on Sunday. ANI

Vande Bharat train to be introduced from Saharanpur to Prayagraj, says Vaishnaw

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said a new Vande Bharat Express train from Saharanpur to Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh would be introduced soon.

Mr. Vaishnaw said this on his visit to the Saharanpur railway station, where he announced projects estimated at ₹500 crore for upgrading multiple stations in the vicinity.

A new 82-km rail line from Saharanpur to Dehradun via Shakumbhari Devi would be constructed.

A two-lane, 757-metre-long flyover has been constructed on the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL) route of the Meerut-Saharanpur section which will serve as a major link to road traffic on Deoband-Saharanpur State highway. At ₹42.5 crore, it is a tripartite cost-sharing project between the Indian Railways, the DFCCIL and the State government.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Flooding issue

To tackle the issue of flooding, a 1,340-metre-long storm water-cum-sewerage pipeline from Khalasi Line to Dhamola River has been constructed for ₹6.51 crore. "The commissioning of the new work has resolved the very old problem of the back flowing of water towards the colonies of Saharanpur as the capacity of the old drain was insufficient to serve the purpose at present," a spokesperson of the Northern Railway said.

Fourteen abandoned railway quarters have been dismantled to build a park near T-2 Railway Colony at the cost of nearly ₹22 lakh.

Mr. Vaishnaw oversaw ongoing development work worth ₹248.36 crore, including the installation of elevators, foot overbridges, and the development of a freight terminal in Khanalampura yard.

Emergency a dark, unforgettable period in India's history: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid homage to all those "who resisted" the Emergency, on the 48th anniversary of its declaration. Mr. Modi said the "dark days" were an "unforgettable period" in India's history.

"I pay homage to all those courageous people who resisted the Emergency and worked to strengthen our democratic spirit. The dark days of Emergency remain an unforgettable period in our history, totally opposite to the values our Constitution celebrates," Mr. Modi said in a tweet.

He was joined by other BJP leaders who tweeted similar sentiments and to also recall that it was under a Congress government in 1975 that democratic rights of Indians were curbed, dissent was suppressed and Opposition leaders were jailed.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the imposition of Emergency was a "selfish" power struggle and continues to remain a symbol of the Congress's "dictatorial mentality".

"On this day in 1975, a family imposed Emergency in the country, taking away the rights of the people and killing democracy, fearing losing power from their hands," Mr. Shah said in a tweet.

"Imposition of Emergency for selfish power struggle is a symbol of the Congress's dictatorial mentality and an indelible taint on the party," he said.

'Faced many tortures'

Mr. Shah said lakhs of people struggled to revive democracy facing many tortures. "I heartily salute all those patriots," he said.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the days of Emergency were a "defining political experience" of his generation and "a lifelong lesson".

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted newspaper clippings on the media's struggle against the curbs on it and the freedom of speech during the Emergency. "Media protested curbing the freedom of speech and Press freedom under the Emergency. Power-hungry Congress muzzled the media, jailed the entire Opposition and amended the Constitution unilaterally," she said in her tweet.

On June 25, 1975, the Indira Gandhi-led Congress government imposed Emergency, which lasted for the next 21 months, during which fundamental rights of the people were provisionally suspended and curbs were put on the press.

Obama's remarks about minority rights in India surprising, says Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman says six Muslim-majority countries had faced U.S. 'bombing' during his tenure as U.S. President; alleges that Congress is raising 'non-issues', trying to vitiate country's atmosphere

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Organised campaigns are being run, at the behest of the Opposition, to level baseless allegations on the treatment meted out to minorities
>
> **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**
> Union Finance Minister

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the remarks made by former U.S. President Barack Obama about minority rights in India under the BJP government were surprising when six Muslim-majority countries had faced U.S. "bombing" during his tenure.

"I was surprised when Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi was talking about India in front of everyone, a former U.S. President was giving statements about Indian Muslims at that time," Ms. Sitharaman said at a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi.

"Didn't bombings happen in six countries – Syria, Yemen, Saudi and Iraq and other Muslim countries – during his term [as U.S. President]?" she asked. "When he makes such allegations, will the people trust him?"

She said Mr. Modi had received the highest civilian awards from 13 countries, including six with a predominantly Muslim population.

'Organised campaigns'

Ms. Sitharaman alleged that "organised campaigns" were being run at the behest of the Opposition to level "baseless" allegations on the treatment meted out to minorities as it cannot defeat the BJP electorally under Mr. Modi.

In an interview to *CNN* on Thursday, Mr. Obama reportedly said if India did not protect the rights of "ethnic minorities", there was a strong possibility that the country "at some point starts pulling apart".

Ms. Sitharaman also took exception to allegations by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), saying India wanted to maintain a good relationship with the U.S., but she was "surprised" to hear such statements. "We want good friendship with the U.S. But from there also, USCIRF's comments about religious tolerance in India comes and the former President is also saying something," she said. The Minister said it was also important to see who were the people behind them.

The Finance Minister alleged that the Congress was "deliberately" raising "non-issues" and levelling allegations "without facts" to vitiate the country's atmosphere. "The Congress is running such campaigns and it was clearly visible in the last election and the previous election where they went to Pakistan seeking their help to change the government in India," she said, while replying to questions on allegations of discrimination against minorities.

"I find this deliberate attempt to vitiate the atmosphere in the country because they think they cannot win against the development policies of Mr. Modi," the Minister alleged.

"Going abroad, our Opposition do not talk in India's interest because they cannot defeat Mr. Modi." "These [targeting of Modi government over minority issues] are organised campaigns. Otherwise, why would countries accord such an honour to Prime Minister Modi and why would there be a distortion in understanding about how the minority population is part of the Indian mainstream," Ms. Sitharaman said.

During his U.S. visit, Mr. Modi had said at a press conference how his government worked on '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*' principle and did not discriminate against any community, the Finance Minister added.

INBRIEF

ED raids Lakshadweep MP Faizal's home and office

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at the offices and residence of Lakshadweep MP Muhammad Faizal on Sunday. Raids were also conducted at the New Delhi office of Mr. Faizal. The residence and office of a person associated with Mr. Faizal was also inspected on the day. The agency is investigating a case against Mr. Faizal for violations of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Gauhati HC stays Wrestling Federation of India elections

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections, delayed several times, were stalled yet again with the Gauhati High Court on Sunday staying the July 11 polls on a petition filed by the Assam Wrestling Association. The State Association, in its petition filed against the WFI, IOA ad-hoc panel and the Sports Ministry, said that though it was entitled to be an affiliated member of the WFI, it was not granted one. The State unit claimed that the then WFI Executive Committee had made recommendation for its affiliation at the Federations' General Council in Gonda, on November 15, 2014 but it was denied recognition. The court directed the respondents – WFI ad-hoc body and the Sports Ministry – that till the next date is fixed for hearing they should not proceed with the elections of the Executive Committee of the WFI. The Gauhati High Court has fixed July 17 as the next date for hearing in the issue. PTI

Cong. leader Maken fires fresh salvo against AAP; Kakkar retorts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A war of words between the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) continued on Sunday, days after senior leaders of the two parties failed to find common ground at the meeting of the Opposition parties in Patna.

Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken said that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was seeking the support of the Congress to defeat the Ordinance over the control of services brought in by the Centre, but was "unabashedly ridiculing senior leaders of the party".

Chief national spokesperson of the AAP Priyanka Kakkar replied that Congress leaders, including Mr. Maken and former MP Sandeep Dixit, had also made statements against the AAP and that "respect is a two-way street".

"Mr. Kejriwal's Ministers place prerequisites on our alliance, while their chief spokesperson publicly disparages our party and leaders on the day of all Opposition party meeting. To brazenly criticize and then demand support, is this how alliances are sought, Mr. Kejriwal?" Mr. Maken tweeted.

The Congress leader said the AAP fought elections in Goa, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Assam "just to help the BJP" and accused the party of using ill-gotten funds to sabotage the Congress by fighting elections in these States.

Ms. Kakkar questioned why Mr. Maken was objecting to the AAP contesting elections when the Congress could not defeat the BJP in Gujarat for the past 30 years. "Will Mr. Kejriwal be blamed for the Congress party's failures in Gujarat?" he asked.

Laying the groundwork

Security personnel conduct a route march in Howrah district of West Bengal on Sunday in view of the upcoming panchayat elections. PTI

Bengal polls: Cong. demands deployment of more Central forces; SEC meets Governor

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Stating that 822 companies of Central forces would not be adequate for free and fair panchayat elections in West Bengal, State Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Sunday demanded deployment of more Central forces.

He also sought an increase in the number of phases of polling from one to at least six.

"In proportion to the number of booths, I think that this number [822 companies] of Central forces is inadequate," Mr. Chowdhury said.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

The State Election Commission (SEC) on Friday informed the Calcutta High Court that it has requisitioned 822 companies of Central forces for the July 8 panchayat polls in the State.

"The Central forces should be deployed in the same manner as in Assembly or Lok Sabha elections. Then only, the panchayat elections will be free and fair... I believe the polling should be conducted in six or more phases," he added.

Meanwhile, State Election Commissioner (SEC) Rajiva Sinha on Sunday called on Governor C.V. Ananda Bose at the Raj Bhavan here.

Earlier, Mr. Sinha had failed to appear before Mr. Bose after he was summoned for an explanation of the incidents of murders, violence and clashes during filing of nominations for the panchayat elections.

Meghalaya tribal council to oppose Uniform Civil Code, says it will affect traditions

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Among the Khasis, the youngest daughter becomes the custodian of the family property

A tribal council in Meghalaya has unanimously passed a resolution to oppose the implementation of the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in areas within its jurisdiction.

The UCC is envisaged to be a common set of personal laws on marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and succession that would be applicable to all citizens irrespective of religious affiliations.

Moving the resolution on Saturday, Pyniaid Sing Syiem, the chief executive member of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC), said the UCC would affect the customs, traditions, practices, inheritance, marriage, and religious freedom of the Khasi community.

The Khasis are a matrilineal community where the youngest daughter becomes the custodian of the family property and a child is given the surname of her or his mother. The community dominates the areas governed by the KHADC.

Two other communities in Meghalaya - Garo and Jaintia - are also matrilineal and their dominions are governed by the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council and the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council.

"The House (council) unanimously resolved to urge the Union government not to implement the UCC in areas within the jurisdiction of the KHADC in order to safeguard and protect the interests of the Khasis as provided under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution," Mr. Syiem said.

Opposition leader Titosstarwell Chyne, who was deposed as the chief executive member of KHADC a week ago, said the members of the three autonomous district councils had met earlier for opposing the UCC.

An organisation called Synkhong Rympei Thymmai, meaning 'Home Hearth Restructured', has been trying to change the matrilineal system of the Khasis to patriarchal for the community to be "in sync" with the world beyond.

No patriotic Muslim can have regard for Aurangzeb: Fadnavis

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

No patriotic Muslim can have regard for Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnavis said on Sunday, while remarking that the minority community in Maharashtra and India was "not Aurangzeb's descendants".

Mr. Fadnavis, who was speaking in Nagpur, was responding to a question over the latest furore over the 17th century Mughal Emperor after slogans glorifying Aurangzeb were reportedly raised at a rally held by All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi in Buldhana district on Saturday.

"Nobody in either Maharashtra or in the country has Aurangzeb's blood running in them. So, who are these sons of Aurangzeb that have risen suddenly? The Muslims in this country are not his descendants... Aurangzeb had come here to oppress Hindus. Tales of his atrocities can run to thousands of pages. So, no patriotic Muslim can regard Aurangzeb," Mr. Fadnavis said.

The BJP leader further questioned the intentions of persons attempting to glorify Aurangzeb while assuring that their motives would be revealed very soon.

Owaisi denies

Mr. Owaisi on Sunday denied that any such slogan had been uttered during his rally, while warning he would file defamation cases against some local media channels for running "false news".

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE ALWAR
Manu Marg Alwar (Raj.)
No. 1632 Date: 12.06.2023
NOTICE INVITING BID (NIT NO.28-29/2023-24)
Bids for work of construction of Sources, P/L/J/T/C of Rising, Distribution, Pipelines, Reservoirs and FHTC including Defect Liability period Under JJM PHED Division Rajgarh (Alwar) are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM on Date 12.07.2023. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
UBN :- PHE2324WSOB03584 **PHE2324WSOB03585**
DIPR/C/8957 **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER
CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum of e-NIT No. : KMC/DG(TNP)/41/2022-2023, Tender ID No.: 2023 - KMC_499651_1 of TP&DD/TNP Department published in this Newspaper **(Key No. 160/23-24) on 22.05.2023.** Last date and time of submission of bid (online) will be **12.07.2023 upto 1 p.m.** instead of 21.06.2023 upto 1 p.m. and Bid opening date and time for technical proposal (online) will be **14.07.2023 at 1 p.m.** instead of 23.06.2023 at 1 p.m.
328/23-24

No. 01/DIRECTOR(LABS)/TNPCB/2023
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Appointment to the Post of Director (Labs), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
Applications are invited from eligible Indian National for selection and appointment by deputation / direct recruitment to the post of Director (Labs), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), Chennai
The notification along with the details of the application format are available on the website of TNPCB at **www.tnpcb.gov.in.**
Eligible candidates are requested to send their applications on or before 21.07.2023 at 5.00 P.M to the following address:
The Chairperson,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Salai,
Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
Chairperson
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
DIPR.709/Display/2023
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை பதிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

Retail giant helps link 8 lakh producers to markets; farm groups sceptical

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

TechnoServe, a non-profit organisation that operates in 30 countries, began its association with coffee farmers in the Araku Valley in Andhra Pradesh about six years ago. Its intervention helped farmers create and manage farmer producer organisations (FPOs). Through eight such units, the organisation says, the farmers' revenues have increased by over 500%.

Similarly, Digital Green, another non-profit that works among cashew farmers in the State, says a collective approach led to a 13% increase in cashew prices. Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), also a non-profit working to promote FPOs, says it helped women farmers cut out middlemen.

What connects these three with the FPOs is the global farm produce and retail giant, Walmart, which funds these projects through the Walmart Foundation, its philanthropy arm. The company has created a network that links farmers directly to the retail market.

This enhances its own capacity to enter India's retail market if and when it is allowed to, tapping into a retail industry that Boston Consulting Group last year pegged to reach approximately $2 trillion by 2032.

At least 500 organisations with eight lakh farmers across nine States – Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh – are involved. Non-profits that implement the programme are working among small and marginal farmers cultivating coffee, cashew, mint, mango, vegetables, wheat and millet. But farmer lobbies still favour the *mandi* system, and cooperatives are sceptical of the global giant.

Julie Gehrki, vice-president, philanthropy, Walmart, said, "We believe that this isn't about giving Walmart or Flipkart [a subsidiary of Walmart] a competitive edge. This is about helping farmers thrive and we believe FPOs are strong. It really creates a stronger system."

However, farmers' organisations are viewing these steps with suspicion. Pavel Kussa, coordinator of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), says that when Walmart is involved, it will be for profit maximisation. He also fears that FPOs controlled by Walmart will weaken cooperative societies which are administered by democratically elected office bearers.

Steaming up: A non-profit organisation has helped coffee growers in Araku to form farmer producer organisations. K.R. DEEPAK

In the background

Walmart is not new at promoting FPOs. In February 2020, the Centre launched the "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations" scheme to push forward 10,000 new FPOs until 2027-28. The idea was to build the collective strength of small and marginal farmers – those with land holdings of less than 1.1 hectares.

Walmart itself has experimented with FPOs in Central America and Mexico in the past. "We really think about building FPOs as an important strategy to provide technical support to help farmers build infrastructure to connect to formal markets so that smallholder farmers can grow their incomes and improve livelihoods," Ms. Gehrki says, adding that the company complements the Union government's work. She claims Walmart initially made a $25-million commitment which it exceeded, to invest $39 million.

Mr. Kussa, however, says, "Walmart wants to enter the agriculture market in India. Their motive is profit and farmers will have to be careful. We don't expect anything good for farmers from them. They may be trying to dig new channels so that they can sell their products and aggregate the market in India." He added that the NGOs are working as the giant's instrument.

The not-for-profits feel the interventions genuinely help. Puneet Gupta, country head of TechnoServe, says that with the help of Walmart, they have set up cupping labs in the FPOs among coffee farmers in Araku Valley so that they are able to determine the cup quality of each batch of coffee.

Improved yield

"Through these interventions, we have brought on board a bunch of large institutional buyers such as Blue Tokai and Starbucks. So, they come in and buy this coffee from these farmer producer companies, while the farmers benefit by getting improved yield and revenues," Mr. Gupta claims, adding that the organisation works with 5% of the coffee farmers in Araku.

There is also knowledge-sharing with their experiences in other parts of the world, says Krishnan Pallassana, country director of Digital Green, which has reached out to online retailers such as Flipkart and Ninjakart. In the past two years of this experiment, Digital Green worked with 35 FPOs, primarily in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with 85% of farmers cultivating chillies, cashew and turmeric.

Narendranath Damodaran, integrator at PRADAN, says most of what is produced is sold domestically. "Some of our produce find exposure in the Reliance store in Ranchi and in some other places," he says, adding that not much is exported.

"There have been very rare exceptions when watermelons from Odisha went to Dubai and mangoes from West Bengal went to Singapore. We want local produce to be consumed locally as much as possible," Mr. Damodaran adds.

INBRIEF

One dead, 35 injured after ammonia leak in Bihar dairy

One person was killed and more than 35 people have been injured after an ammonia gas cylinder leaked at a dairy at Hajipur in Vaishali district of Bihar on Sunday night. The deceased has been identified as a labourer of the Raj Fresh Dairy. A stampede-like situation ensued after the leak, leading to injuries to many. They were admitted to the government-run Sadar Hospital and private nursing homes. The cause of the gas leak has not been determined yet. Preliminary investigation suggested negligence from the factory side. The district administration has said that everything is under control. According to an eyewitness, the leaked gas spread for about four kilometres and people started having difficulty breathing.

Assam floods: NDRF team rescues over 120 people

More than 120 people were rescued and shifted to safer places in Assam by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which has deployed 10 teams to undertake flood relief operations in the State, an official said on Sunday. Over four lakh people have been hit by the deluge across nine districts of the State, even though water levels started to recede on Sunday. "A total of 10 teams have been deployed in Assam that are conducting rescue and evacuation from low-lying areas. So far, 123 persons and several cattle have been shifted to safer places," an NDRF spokesperson said. The spokesperson said these teams were also assisting the local authorities in distribution of relief material. The situation was currently under control, he added. PTI

Two senior citizens dead as monsoon batters Mumbai

Downpour: A man pulling a cart crosses a road amid rain as the southwest monsoon advances over Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

As the first heavy showers of the monsoon battered Mumbai and its suburbs on Sunday, triggering waterlogging and building collapses, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray criticised Chief Minister and rival Shiv Sena faction leader Eknath Shinde over civic failures. Two senior citizens were killed as a building collapsed in the heavy rain.

According to authorities in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the balcony of a ground floor and the first floor of a three-storey building caved in at Vile Parle, killing the two.

In a separate incident, a portion of a four-storey residential building collapsed in Mumbai's Ghatkopar area.

Four people have been rescued while two are still trapped inside the debris, BMC authorities said, adding that the situation was under control.

As the city was hit by water-logging at several points, Mr. Aaditya Thackeray attacked Mr. Shinde over the latter's claims of civic preparedness.

Mr. Aaditya Thackeray called Mr. Shinde's response to citizens' complaints about waterlogging and civic failures in Mumbai "disgraceful", stating in a tweet that Mr. Shinde's rebuke to Mumbai's citizens was an embodiment of "shamelessness, incompetence, and corruption".

As Mr. Aaditya Thackeray hurled barbs at Mr. Shinde, the Chief Minister reviewed the functioning of an underground water tank at the Milan subway to prevent flooding.

Vikram, Pragyan to return for another tryst with the moon

Chandrayaan-3 lander, rover named after those in the previous mission; India's third moon exploration mission slated for mid-July launch

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India's third moon exploration mission, slated for a mid-July launch, will share the names associated with the 2019 Chandrayaan-2 lunar adventure.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to retain the names of the Chandrayaan-2 lander and rover for their Chandrayaan-3 equivalents as well, ISRO Chairman S. Somanath told *The Hindu*. This means, the Chandrayaan-3 lander will bear the name Vikram (after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space programme) and the rover, Pragyan.

Much to its disappointment, the ISRO had lost the Chandrayaan-2 lander-rover configuration and the payloads aboard after Vikram crashed on the lunar surface while attempting a soft landing. Earlier this month, Mr. Somanath announced ISRO's plans to launch the third moon mission in mid-July aboard the LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk-III) rocket from Sriharikota. A propulsion module will carry the lander-rover configuration to a 100-km lunar orbit. Once the Vikram lander module makes it safely to the moon, it will deploy Pragyan, "which will carry out in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility", the ISRO said.

India's second moon mission, Chandrayaan-2, lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on July 22, 2019. PTI

Scientific experiments

The lander, rover and the propulsion module will have payloads for performing experiments designed to give scientists new insights into the characteristics of earth's lone natural satellite. The lander will have four payloads – Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA), Chandra's Surface Thermo physical Experiment (ChaSTE), Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) and the LASER Retroreflector Array (LRA).

The six-wheeled rover will have two payloads – the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) and the LASER Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (LIBS).

In addition to these, there will be one payload on the propulsion module, the Spectro-polarimetry of HAbitable Planet Earth (SHAPE).

Relieve the burden on courts, says Meghwal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Sunday called for repealing outdated laws and simplifying complex pieces of legislation as he underlined the need to relieve courts of the burden of pending cases.

He stressed the need to have equitable access to justice for all citizens. Mr. Meghwal made these remarks while addressing a *Chintan Shivir* of the Legal Affairs and Legislative departments of the Law Ministry. While the Legal Affairs Department advises the government on complex legal issues, the Legislative Department drafts Bills for various Ministries and vets key policy documents and ordinances.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said recently that laws should be written in simple language so that even the poorest of the poor could understand the new legislation.

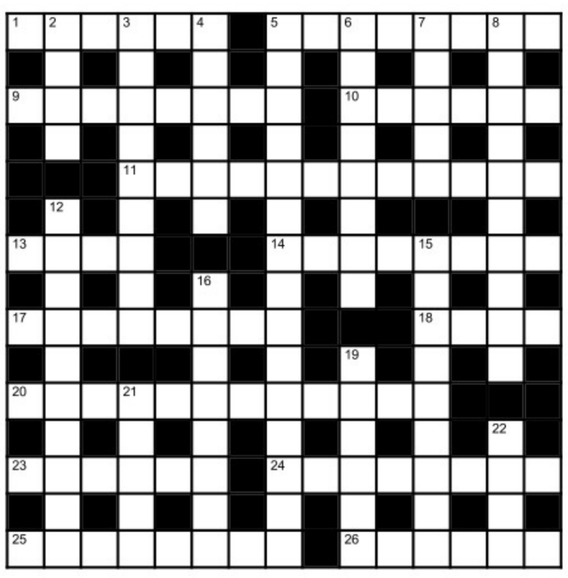
"He [Meghwal] reiterated his dedication to advancing ongoing initiatives and ensuring equitable access to justice for all citizens. Emphasising the need to repeal outdated laws and simplify complex ones, he expressed his commitment to relieving the burden on the courts through these endeavours," a Law Ministry statement said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13901

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Check box (6)
5 Batting posture, for example (8)
9 A frantic appeal to hoard top-quality roofing material (8)
10 Savage review of film (6)
11 Here, refrains could be a means to clear the atmosphere (3,9)
13 Maiden eschews University loans (4)
14 Preparation of begum - nan and dal (4,4)
17 *Cancer, say ? (4,4)
18 False statement to implicate nation's first family (4)
20 Grill in bar? (5-7)
23 Case of dill stocked by fruit seller (6)
24 Institute's popular computer-related subject, I picked (8)
25 Probable champion starting to practise in camp (8)
26 Avtaar probes singular brown part of a flower (6)

Down

2 Oriental bath put up in part of church (4)
3 Letter from Greece inspires Bill, a B-grade lyricist (9)
4 Stop working on tax (6)
5 One playing the piano diverted militants' unrest (15)
6 "Last Hurrah" - nude dance was performed before Boy George's opening (4,4)
7 Chirpy Carroll's girl about to be taken out by Victor (5)
8 Keep employee's online conversation on European channel, about India (10)
12 The old tyres are rekindling good old days (10)
15 Danseuse abducted by footballer in Argentina (9)
16 Green growth in long, bare avenue (4,4)
19 Famous poet runs away - son watches (6)
21 Deals to dispose of drink on board (5)
22 As yet, not a malignant lump (4)

SUDOKU

		3					8	5
7			9	8		2		
		2		5				
			5	3		6		
	2		6		1		7	
		7		2	4			
				4		1		
		5		1	9			2
2	9					3		

No.SS5839 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	S	U	R	E	L	Y		R
A	D	I	U	S		T		A
I		B		G		U		F
A	S	T	O	N	E		L	A
U	N	D	R	Y		V		R
E	D		T		E	V		R
E	P	A	R	A	T	I	V	E
	O	M	E	N		C		M
S		U		Y		S	U	E
D	E		S	E	A	L	S	K
I	N		M			N	I	
S		N	F	O	O	T	S	T
E	P		S	L	A	N	G	
K		E		A		O		I
B	E	A	R		A	N	T	I
C	H	R	I	S	T		L	
R		G		E		I		L
W	R	E	V	I	V	A	L	
M	A	X	I	M	A	L		S
E	T		T		F		G	
S	C	R	E	E	N		M	E
T	T	L	E					

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	4	3	6	5	7	1	9
3	9	1	7	2	4	6	8	5
6	5	7	1	9	8	2	3	4
1	4	8	9	5	2	3	7	6
2	3	9	6	4	7	1	5	8
7	6	5	8	3	1	9	4	2
9	8	2	4	7	3	5	6	1
5	1	3	2	8	6	4	9	7
4	7	6	5	1	9	8	2	3

FAITH

Azhwars extol Lord Rama

Azhwars have revealed the experience of the attributes of Lord Rama through their divine hymns. The experience is felt through nine types of spiritual relationship with the Lord. They are: father and son, saviour and the saved, master and servant, husband and wife, the known (He has to be known) and (we) the one who knows, owner and property, supporter and the supported, paramathma and jeevathma and enjoyer and the objects enjoyed.

Thirukudandhai Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that the Azhwars have expressed six different moods to relish the glory of the Lord: *Saantha bhavam* – a devotional mood of tranquillity and peace. Thirumazhisaipiran says in *Thiruchandhaviruttham* 94th verse that Lord is the indwelling controller (*Antharyami)* of all in the universe. The Azhwar says, "oh! Rama! You are my Lord"; *Sakhaa bhavam* – mood of friendship. Thirumangai Azhwar expresses in *Periya Thirumozhi* (5-8-1) his eagerness to befriend the Lord (*ezhai edhalan keezhmaghan*). He pleads to Lord Rama, "accept me as your friend like Guha"; *Daasya bhavam* – mood of servitude. Thirumangai Azhwar praises Lord Rama (5-8-2) for accepting Hanuman to serve Him. He pleads that he too be taken as His servant; *Vatsalya bhavam* – parental care, love and affection. Kulasekara Azhwar in *Perumal Thirumozhi* sings "*Mannu pugazh Kosalai*". He says to Lord Rama, "You are my enchanting elixir. I sing lullaby to you"; *Maadhurya bhavam* – bridal mysticism. Observing the beauty of Sri Rama, Nammazhwar transformed out of deep devotion as Parankusa Nayaki; *Virodha bhavam* – mood of enmity. It implies even the enemies would extol the greatness of Sri Rama.

KATHMANDU

Anti-graft body in Pashupati temple to probe missing gold

REUTERS

Nepal's Pashupatinath Temple was shut for devotees on Sunday afternoon after the nation's top anti-corruption body took control of the temple premises to investigate a report that 10 kg of gold were missing from an ornament weighing 100 kg. Pashupatinath Temple is the oldest Hindu temple in Kathmandu. PTI

ATHENS

Conservatives' New Democracy Party projected to win Greek polls

AP

Greece's conservative New Democracy party won a landslide victory in the country's second election in five weeks, official projections based on early returns showed, gaining enough parliamentary seats to form a government for a second four-year term. Kyriakos Mitsotakis' party is projected to win 40.5% of the vote. AFP

KANSAS CITY

Three dead, five injured in early morning shootings in Missouri

AP

At least three persons were found dead, and at least five others are thought to be injured, the police in Missouri said while investigating two shootings with multiple victims in the same area of Kansas City early on Sunday morning. The incident reportedly took place at a parking lot. AP

LAHORE

Court acquits former Pakistan PM Sharif in 37-year-old 'bribe' case

AP

A Pakistani court acquitted former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a 37-year-old case alleging that he transferred a "precious state land" to one of the country's leading media barons as a "bribe". The ruling comes days after the government led by his brother Shehbaz Sharif made changes to laws to lift the life-long ban on politicians. PTI

Islamic State claims killing of Sikh man in Pakistan

Associated Press
PESHAWAR

Gunmen shot and killed a member of Pakistan's minority Sikh community in an overnight attack in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

A police officer said the attack on Manmohan Singh, 35, appeared to be a targeted killing. He said the assailants opened fire at Singh while he was returning home from a suburban area. The assailants fled the scene.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the killing, saying Singh had been a follower of what it called a "polytheistic" Sikh sect in Peshawar. It also claimed wounding a Sikh in the city the previous day.

Wagner chief to move to Belarus in a deal brokered by Lukashenko

Fighters of the Wagner group returned to their bases in return for guarantees for their safety and leader Yevgeny Prigozhin; mercenaries withdraw from Rostov in a convoy of armoured vehicles to the sound of cheers from local residents

Reuters
ROSTOV-ON-DON/VORONEZH

Heavily armed Russian mercenaries withdrew from the southern Russian city of Rostov overnight under a deal that defused an unprecedented challenge to the authority of President Vladimir Putin and halted their rapid advance on Moscow.

Fighters of the Wagner group returned to their bases in return for guarantees for their safety and the leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, will move to Belarus, according to the agreement mediated by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Intrinsic part: A young boy hugs a member of Wagner group in the city of Rostov-on-Don in Russia on Saturday. AFP

Mr. Prigozhin, 62, a former Putin ally whose forces have fought the bloodiest battles of the 16-month war in Ukraine, said his decision to advance on Moscow was intended to remove corrupt and incompetent Russian commanders he blames for botching the war.

His whereabouts on Sunday were not immediately clear.

Videos shared on social media from Rostov overnight purportedly showed the mercenaries withdrawing from the city in a convoy of armoured vehicles, tanks and coaches to the sound of cheers, chants of "Wagner" and celebratory gunfire from local residents.

"Take care of yourselves," shouted one woman.

The show of support for Wagner's short-lived insurrection will alarm the authorities in a country which has become increasingly intolerant of any public criticism of Mr. Putin and his rule.

Under the deal Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said a criminal case opened against Mr. Prigozhin for armed mutiny would be dropped, Mr. Prigozhin would move to Belarus, and Wagner fighters who rallied to his cause would face no action, in recognition of their previous service to Russia. Mr. Peskov said Mr. Lukashenko had offered to mediate, with Mr. Putin's approval, because he had known Mr. Prigozhin personally for around 20 years.

Menawhile, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko flew to Beijing for talks with China on "international" issues. It was unclear if the visit was in response to Wagner's rebellion.

Hollywood producer testifies at Netanyahu corruption trial

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Arnon Milchan allegedly delivered tens of thousands of dollars worth champagne, cigars and other gifts to the Israel Prime Minister

An Israeli producer of Hollywood blockbuster films took the stand in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption trial Sunday, describing how he routinely delivered tens of thousands of dollars of champagne, cigars and other gifts requested by the Israeli leader.

Arnon Milchan, who appeared by videoconference from the British city of Brighton, near where he is based, is a key witness whose testimony is essential for prosecutors who are trying to prove that Mr. Netanyahu committed fraud and breach of trust in one of three cases brought against him.

Prosecutors hope Mr. Milchan's testimony, which began on Sunday and was expected to run through this week and next, will paint a picture of plush favours granted to Mr. Netanyahu and his wife that allegedly spurred the Israeli leader to use his position of power to advance Milchan's interests. The defence will try to establish that Mr. Netanyahu wasn't acting in Mr. Milchan's personal interests and that the gifts were just friendly gestures.

Wagner group mutiny exposes chinks in Putin's armoured regime

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

In an interview in 2018, Vladimir Putin was asked if he was a forgiving person. He said yes, "but not everything". The reporter asked him what was impossible for him to forgive. "Betrayal," was the quick reply.

For the former KGB operative who has been at the helm of Russia for more than two decades, June 24 was marked by not just the biggest threat to his hold on power but also a public display of betrayal by a former trusted ally. Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of Wagner Private Military Company, launched a "march for justice" towards Moscow after his mercenaries took over the Southern Military District and some other administrative buildings in Rostov-on-Don.

Mr. Prigozhin, a former Kremlin contractor who set up Wagner with the consent and support of Mr. Putin, demanded the dismissal of Russia's military leadership, particularly Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov, who is also the commander of the "special military operation", as the Russian invasion of Ukraine is called by Moscow.

Mr. Prigozhin blames the "corrupt" and "incompetent" Ministry of Defence leadership for Russia's poor performance in the Ukraine war. But by taking over a military command and launching a march towards Moscow with tanks and other weapons, at a time when Russia is trying to repel the Ukrainian counteroffensive along the over 1,000-km-long frontline, Mr. Prigozhin was effectively challenging his former boss.

Mass appeal: Yevgeny Prigozhin poses for a selfie from a vehicle with a resident of Rostov-on-Don in Russia on Saturday. AP

'A stab in the back'

As the crisis was unfolding before the whole world, Mr. Putin came on TV, calling the Wagner group's move a "betrayal" and a "stab in the back". He said he had ordered the Russian troops to crush the mutiny. But Wagner faced no major resistance from the regular Russian troops when its mercenaries marched along the M-4 state highway. That was because what Mr. Putin did, after threatening action, was to turn to Alexander Lukashenko, the Belarus President and a long-time ally, to negotiate with the man who betrayed him.

By Saturday night, Belarus announced that Wagner would turn around from its march and leave the buildings they occupied in the south, averting a major crisis. Immediately after that, Mr. Prigozhin released a video on the Wagner Telegram channel, saying "it's over".

Mr. Prigozhin had particular demands: Wagner should be protected; he should get immunity (authorities had slapped criminal charges on him after the mutiny began) and Minister Shoigu and General Gerasimov should be sacked. Full details of the deal that Mr. Lukashenko struck with the Wagner group are still not available.

But later in the night, Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, said the criminal case against Mr. Prigozhin would be dropped and that "he will leave for Belarus". The Wagner fighters who did not join the mutiny would sign contracts with the Ministry of Defence and those who joined the mutiny would not be prosecuted. There were rumours in Russian Telegram channels that the top military brass would be fired, but Mr. Peskov said "personnel changes in the MoD were not discussed".

On the face of it, Mr. Prigozhin accepted concessions after launching a rebellion for his own safety. This also provides an opportunity for Russia to splinter and integrate Wagner into the regular Russian command structure. And it is to be seen whether the fate of M/s Shoigu and Gerasimov is hanging in balance especially as criticism of the way the war is conducted is mounting at home. But at the same time, the whole drama exposed Mr. Putin's loosening grip over a system which he helped build and managed tightly over the past 20 years.

This crisis has been brewing for quite some time. Throughout the battle for Bakhmut, Mr. Prigozhin has been attacking Russia's defence establishment, accusing them of blocking ammunition and other essentials for Wagner. Mr. Putin did little to end the feud between the Generals and the warlord.

In January, as Wagner was capturing Soledar in Donetsk, Russia's first major victory in months, Mr. Putin appointed Gen. Gerasimov as the commander of the "special military operation", a move that was seen by many as an effort by the Kremlin to reassert the primacy of the defence establishment over Wagner.

But the latter's capture of Bakhmut left Mr. Prigozhin stronger. An attempt by the Ministry of Defence to integrate Wagner into the regular Russian Army earlier this month seemed to be the trigger for the current mutiny.

Twin crises

For now, Mr. Putin has averted immediate threats to the stability of his regime. As someone who cites historical examples galore in his speeches, Mr. Putin knows that bad wars had cost Russian rulers dearly. Mr. Putin has weathered many storms in the past but is now facing the biggest crisis of his career. He has to win the war. He has to put his house in order. And he has to do both simultaneously.

THE HINDU GROUP
SPEAKING GOOD ENGLISH DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THIS CHALLENGING!
SPEAK
WITH CONFIDENCE
Improve your accent, pronunciation and confidence with this highly interactive English learning course.
A 6-week course that offers
6 one-on-one Coach Calls: On pronunciation, intonation, accent, followed by personalised feedback over 30 minutes
6 LIVE classes: 1-hour each focusing on conversational language
131 short self-learning webisodes: 17-hour online learning content covering various aspects of speaking
1 unit per week covering: Introducing yourself (Week 1) | Everyday English (Week 2) | Being formal (Week 3) | Socialising (Week 4) | Everyday transactions (Week 5) | Avoiding common grammatical errors (Week 6)
This one of a kind course would be available only once in 45 days.
Scan the QR code
STEP
Visit bit.ly/STEPEASY2

ASKUS

Vidya Bala

Q I'm 26 years old with a salary of ₹28,000. I plan to invest as I have started on my job. My parents are suggesting chit funds, specifically KSFE. But recently, I heard about SIP especially in Nifty 50 and smallcase investments through my friends. As I am a beginner in the field of investing, could you provide me with information on what I need to be careful with in investing, and how to invest?
AANANTH

A There are three key things you need to take cognisance of when you invest: one, understanding risk and how much you can handle - whether you can stomach losses in market linked products (mutual funds, stocks including smallcase, etc). Two, having a goal or time frame for investing. Your time frame will determine what products you can choose and what to avoid. For example, stocks or equity mutual funds is okay for long-term investing of 5-years or over, but for goals of less than a year, they are best avoided. Three and very importantly, knowing whether the financial product you invest in is regulated or partly regulated or not regulated.
Some chit funds are NBFCs regulated by RBI and others are simply governed by the State in which they are registered. A few others are collective schemes without regulation. Either way, they are high-risk opaque products. Still, you have more contemporary products to invest in and a chit fund need not be your first option.
For beginners like you, bank deposits and/or PPF should form part of your low-risk investment. You can then venture into equity mutual funds through index funds like Nifty, Nifty Midcap 150 and so on. These are called passive funds and are low on cost and return as much as the market does. You can use the direct plan to invest in these. But have at least a 5-year time frame. Don't venture in smallcase or direct stock investing until you get familiar with stock markets in a few years and your income also rises.

Q My late dad had recommended PPF, NSC and FD for us to invest in. I am wondering whether to go for another PPF with 15-year lock in and the other options he suggested. I earn about ₹92,000 per month after taxes and I have a home loan (₹17 lakh) running for ₹27,000 per month. I also have a car loan (₹5 lakh) taken last year July 2022 and paying EMI ₹8,700 a month. I have term insurance for ₹1 crore coverage and paying ₹74,000 annually premium, an LIC policy for my wife for ₹5 lakh, paying annual premium ₹27,000. I have two kids aged 11 and 7, and so far haven't initiated useful plans for them. Their school fees come to about ₹1.3 lakh per year. Currently I have opted for NPS from my company. I have a PF amount accumulated to ₹17 lakh and we have savings account balance ₹15 lakh. Can I take out my entire PF account and close my home loan, or use our savings in the bank to close this home loan and keep the PF untouched?
BENNY PREMKUMAR

A You can use market-linked regulated products for long-term wealth-building. A pure term cover of ₹1 crore cannot cost ₹74,000 premium. Please check if it is a cover plus a mix of any other money-back option or market-linked option. Whether it is your policy or your wife's, avoid fancied policies and stick to a pure term cover for life. Stop the ones you run if they have crossed 5 years or so. You will be wasting premium on low-return policies if they are in money-back/endowment plans. Next, if you are getting deduction for home loan interest (which is outside 80C), you can continue your loan, periodically making prepayments. Instead try to first close your car loan which only adds to your monthly cash outflows without any meaningful asset as it is a mere consumer loan. Your PPF, NPS and some index mutual funds will help build a retirement kitty for you. Do not use up the emergency corpus in savings account. At best, invest them in debt mutual funds. For your children, start SIPs in simple index equity funds like Nifty, Nifty 500, and some 20-30% in corporate bond mutual funds.

(The adviser is Co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Understanding interest rate risk

When interest rates go up, bond prices come down and vice versa. This is interest rate risk and is applicable to all investments that give us returns in the form of interest such as FD, bonds

MONEY MATTERS

Gaurav Mashruwala

Explaining interest rate risk is a bit difficult, however let me try.

First of all, we need to understand to which category of investments this particular risk is applicable. As the name suggests, interest rate risk is applicable to all those investments that give us returns in the form of interest. Which are the investments that return interest? Fixed deposits, bonds and debentures are to name a few.

Basically, debt instruments are those instruments where we, as investors, lend money and in return, get interest. Upon maturity, the principal amount of these investments is returned to us.

There might arise a situation in which we may not want to wait until the maturity date and may need our money beforehand. If our investment is in fixed deposits (FD), we have to break the FD and get our principal back along with interest, if any.

But what if these are bonds or debentures? The difference between fixed deposits and bonds/debentures is that the latter could be sold or transferred during their tenure.

> During the tenure of a fixed deposit, if we need funds beforehand, we can approach the financial institution and break the FD and get the principal amount back

It is mandatory for the issuing company to list them on the stock market; once they are listed, they can be bought and sold just as we buy and sell shares in the stock market.

FD vs bonds

What I mean to say is during the tenure of a fixed deposit, if we need funds, we can approach the financial institution to break the FD and get the principal amount back. This option is, however, not available in bonds/debentures.

During its tenure, the holder of a bond/debenture cannot get the funds back from the issuing financial institution, but can generate liquidity by trading in the stock market.

Now comes the crux of the matter. Let us assume Shashibhai has purchased bonds issued by the Government of India. These bonds are to mature after 10 years. After purchasing these bonds, Shashibai realises that he needs money to fund his daughter's higher education and is short of money. He decides to sell the bonds in the stock market. The face value of each bond is, say, ₹100 and interest payable as per the terms of the bond when it was issued is 9.5% yearly. After he purchased these bonds, interest rates in the market increased and now the new 10-year bonds being issued in the market are offering interest at 10.25%.

> During its tenure, the holder of a bond / debenture cannot get the funds back, but can generate liquidity by trading on the stock market

Bond buyers will be reluctant to purchase Shashibhai's bonds. However, since he needs money, he is willing to sell those ₹100 bonds at a discount - say at ₹92.50 each. As interest rates in the market had gone up, Shashibhai would have to suffer a loss.

Similarly, if interest rates were to go down, freshly issued bonds may be available with an interest rate of 8% per annum. In such a scenario, Shashibhai will sell his bonds at a higher price and make profit. For example, a ₹100 bond may fetch him ₹105.

When interest rates go up, bond prices come down and when interest rates come down, bond prices go up. This is interest rate risk.

Principal stays

Of course, Shashibhai has the option not to sell his bonds till the end and on the maturity date, he will receive the principal amount back. In that case, there is no impact of interest rate movement on his investments and his investments are shielded from interest rate risk.

Debt mutual fund investors sometimes wonder how a debt mutual fund can give negative returns. This is because debt mutual funds have to factor in the movement of interest rates when they calculate the value of units (read NAV).

Accordingly, based on the movement of interest rates, there could be a situation wherein the bonds/debentures that a fund has invested in suffers losses and the NAV goes down.

The movement of interest rates could be due to several factors. We are not getting into those right now, but the so-called 'secured bonds/debentures' are also subject to risk and one of the prime risks is interest rate risk.

(The writer is a financial planner and author of Yogic Wealth)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.75	7.75	7.00
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.60	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.00	6.75	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.51	7.50	8.00	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.50	7.25	7.35	6.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	9.10	6.85	7.25	9.10
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.20	7.20
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.10	6.75	7.00	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.00	7.25	7.25	5.85
CSB Bank	7.35	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	8.00	7.25	8.00	7.75
HDFC Bank	7.25	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.75	6.75	7.75	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.75	7.75	7.50	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.10	7.10	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.30	7.00	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.30	7.00	7.00	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.20	7.10	6.50	6.20
Nainital Bank	7.05	6.70	6.25	5.75
RBL Bank	7.80	7.00	7.10	7.10
SBM Bank India	7.80	7.05	7.65	7.65
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.60	6.50	6.00
City Union Bank	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.25
Tamilnad Mercantile	7.25	7.25	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank of India	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canara Bank	7.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Central Bank of India	7.10			
Indian Bank	7.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Indian Overseas Bank	7.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab National Bank	7.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Bank of India	7.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Union Bank of India	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Foreign Banks				
HSBC Bank	7.50	4.00	7.00	6.00

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India*	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.05	8.50-10.05
Bank of Baroda	8.60-10.65	8.60-10.65	8.60-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.95	8.50-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.65-9.60	8.60-9.50	8.60-9.50
Bank of India	8.45-10.75	8.45-10.75	8.45-10.75
Canara Bank	8.85-11.25	8.75-11.25	8.55-11.15
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95
Indian Overseas Bank	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards
ICICI Bank	9.00-9.80	9.00-9.95	9.00-10.05
Axis Bank	9.00-13.30	9.00-13.30	9.00-9.40
HSBC Bank	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards
South Indian Bank	9.85-12.60	9.85-12.60	9.85-12.60
Karur Vysya Bank	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13
Karnataka Bank	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43
Federal Bank	10.15-10.20	10.20-10.25	10.25-10.30
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	9.35-9.85	9.35-9.85	9.35-9.85
Bandhan Bank	9.15-15.00	9.15-13.32	9.15-13.32
CSB Bank	11.33-13.18	11.33-13.18	11.33-13.18
City Union Bank	12.25 - 14.00	12.75 - 14.50	13.25 - 14.75
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.45-10.35	8.45-10.55	8.45-10.75
HDFC Ltd.	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.60	8.50-10.70
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.50 onwards	8.50 onwards	8.50 onwards
Tata Capital	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards
PNB Housing Finance	8.75-14.50	8.75-11.50	8.75-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 onwards	8.80 onwards	8.80 onwards
Repco Home Finance	9.80 onwards	9.80 onwards	9.80 onwards
Aditya Birla Capital	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75
ICICI Home Finance	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards
Godrej Housing Finance	8.64 onwards	8.64 onwards	8.64 onwards

***10 bps concession on applicable interest rates for Shaurya and Shaurya Flexi products. 5 bps concession on applicable interest rates for builder tie up projects**
Rates as on June 22 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

A 'healthy' return to our roots

COVERNOTE

When it comes to insurance, treatment under any system except Allopathy was not payable for a long time. In 2016, regulations were changed to allow insurers to cover AYUSH treatments

K. Nitya Kalyani

The just-concluded International Yoga Day on June 21 and the attention it has drawn bring to mind our rich legacy of ancient Indian health systems.

While Allopathy is ubiquitous and has the first recall status when it comes to healthcare in large parts of India, traditional systems of medicine still have their rightful place. They have a range of effective practices for prevention and treatment of diseases and have been trusted for generations. Scoring on their side is easier access, lower costs and a reputation for purportedly negligible side effects.

They include Indian systems like Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani and Siddha, as well as Homeopathy. The overseeing government department formed in 1995 was renamed AYUSH in 2003, an acronym of the names of these systems and Sowa-Rigpa. The Ministry of AYUSH was formed in 2014.

When it comes to insurance, treatment under any system except Allopathy was not payable under hospitalisation policies for a long time. In 2016, insurance regulations were changed to allow insurers to cover AYUSH treatments in hospitals accredited by National Accreditation Board on Health, Quality Council of India or similar institutions.

Companies started offering AYUSH coverage but with stiff sub-limits. While some companies offer barely 10% of the sum insured, in the case of AYUSH claims in recent years, some companies have removed sub-limits for this aspect. Insurers have also selected accredited AYUSH hospitals to be empanelled in their network for cashless treatment. Here, basic norms set down by the regulator like quality accreditation, number of qualified and registered doctors, therapy infrastructure and number of beds are taken into account. Such norms, incidentally are laid down for allopathic hospitals as well.

The ministry has also published rates of therapies/interventions under Yoga and Naturopathy for instance, to be taken as benchmarks for calculating treatment expenditure to settle insurance claims with room rent as per the norms of the insurance company and the policy terms. Similarly, treatment expenditure guidelines for Ayurveda and Siddha have been published as well.

With increasing health awareness and costs, AYUSH is an attractive option again. Your insurance policy offers some support - just be sure to check your coverage clauses before you start hospital treatment.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance and corporate history)

GRIPPING TEST

Australia closes in on Ashes victory with England 116/5, chasing 268

England was reeling at 116 for five at stumps on day four of the women's Ashes Test on Sunday chasing 268, giving Australia the upper hand going into the final day at Trent Bridge.
The scores: Australia 473 & 257 (Mooney 85, Litchfield 46, Healy 50, Ecclestone 5/63) vs England 463 & 116/5 (Gardner 3/33).

UNRELENTING

More aggression, positive mindset the way forward, says Anderson

James Anderson on Saturday vowed that England would be more positive, aggressive and entertaining when they look to level the Ashes series in the second Test at Lord's. "We want to try and make sure people go home happy as they did each day at Edgbaston," said the 40-year-old who endured a tough first Test.

MENTAL GAME

Ponting's advice to countrymen Labuschagne and Head

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Ricky Ponting has offered advice to Australia batters Marnus Labuschagne and Travis Head to counter England's bowling attack ahead of the second Ashes Test. "I would like to catch up with him (Labuschagne). I think he's over complicating things a little bit. I think he has to work at it in his own mind," he said.

CHAMPIONS

Dwi Wardoyo and Tai claim singles titles at Taipei Open

Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo got the better of local star Su Li-yang 23-21, 23-15 to claim the men's singles crown at the Taipei Open badminton tournament on Sunday. However, Tai Tzu-ying kept the fans happy by taking the women's title at the expense of American Beiwen Zhang, winning 21-14, 21-17 in 31 minutes.

Diksha claims the Czech Ladies Open title

It is the 22-year-old southpaw's second triumph on the European Tour after the maiden success in 2019; she has nine top-10 finishes with four of them coming this season

GOLF

Press Trust of India
CZECHIA (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Symbol of supremacy: Diksha proudly displays the reward for her success. LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR

Diksha Dagar won her second Ladies European Tour (LET) title with a commanding four-shot win in the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open at the Royal Beroun Golf Club on Sunday.

Starting the day with a five-shot lead, Diksha, who hails from Jhajjar in Haryana, delivered the win with no hiccups.

She compiled rounds of 69-65-69 with 13 birdies, an eagle and just two bogeys in 54 holes for a total of 13-under-203 over three rounds.

The 22-year-old southpaw had won her first LET crown back in 2019 in her rookie year and in 2021 was part of the winning team at the Aramco Team Series in London.

Long wait ends

"I'm feeling very happy. I finally won after five years.

"My first win just happened and for this event, I really worked hard for this. For the last three weeks, I was very close to a win and it has finally happened," said Diksha. "I feel so happy to be part of the winner's circle again. It has given me confidence and I finally believe in myself that, yes, I can do it."

This was Diksha's 79th start on the LET and apart from two individual wins, she has nine top-10 finishes with four coming this season.

Spirited challenge

Thailand's Trichat Cheenglab, who made a valiant charge on the final day with a 64, finished with a total of 9-under to take the runner-up spot ahead of Frenchwoman Celine Herbin (69-72-67).

Diksha was the second Indian to win on the LET Tour after Aditi Ashok claimed the Hero Women's Indian Open in 2016.

The 22-year-old tasted her maiden success on the LET at the 2019 Investec Women's South African Open.

This season, Diksha was tied sixth in Belgian Ladies, tied 8th at Helsingborg Ladies Open and tied 3rd at Amundi German Masters last week.

Playing on a sponsor's exemption this week, Pranavi Urs finished with a 3-under 69 for a total of 4-under 212 and a share of the 17th spot.

Ridhima Dilwarai, the other Indian to make the cut, finished with a 146 to be Tied-51st.

Diksha, who was born with a hearing impairment, has twice been a medallist at the Deaflympics – gold in 2021 and silver in 2017.

In 2021 she also participated at the Tokyo Olympics, becoming the first-ever golfer to compete at both Deaflympics and the main Olympic Games.

She also participated in the 2018 Asian Games.

Ranked 22nd on the Race to Costa Del Sol on then Ladies European Tour, Diksha is expected to force her way into the Top-10.

Suliman and Otis — the diaspora footballers determined to prop up struggling Pakistan

SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Otis and Suliman... a whiff of fresh air. K. MURALI KUMAR

Pakistan's two SAFF Championship outings thus far have laid bare the harsh realities. The identical 4-0 thrashings from hosts India and Kuwait have not only ended its tournament prematurely but also revealed how far it is from even mid-level Asian football.

Two young men, however, want to change that – the England-born duo of Easah Suliman and Otis Khan, both of whom secured clearances in May to play for the country of their grandparents and are in India for their first FIFA-recognised tournament. For Pakistan, which has been twice suspended by FIFA in the last six years and doesn't have a robust domestic football structure, they are a breath of fresh air.

Suliman, a product of the Aston Villa academy, was the first player of Asian heritage to captain an English football team, leading the national side at the U-16, U-17 and U-19 levels. The 25-year-old won the U-19 Euros (2017), playing alongside the likes of Aaron Ramsdale, Reece James and Mason Mount, all top-draw Premier League players currently.

Otis, 27, came through the Manchester United academy, where he was in the youth teams (2002-2012). Now, he is at Grimsby Town, in the fourth tier of English football. Otis also has an Indian connection; his grandfather was born in Delhi before moving to Faisalabad. Though his heart lies in Pakistan, he hopes to play in the Indian Super League one day.

"I felt this was the right time to bring my knowledge and experience," says Otis. "In Pakistan, the No. 1 sport is cricket, so most kids go there. But when more foreign players come into the team, it helps the locals. We have got players playing in Portugal, Denmark and England. And all I have been doing is to give my knowledge."

Suliman, the more pedigreed of the two, couldn't make the progression from England juniors to seniors. But he wants to play a transformational role in Pakistan, drawing inspiration from English cricketer Moeen Ali, a fellow Birmingham resident who is also of Pakistani origin.

"I have met him many times and we are quite close," Suliman says. "Anyone who plays sport in our city looks up to him. He was part of the IPL-winning team recently (Chennai Super Kings), and is back in the Ashes team. [It] shows that irrespective of your origin, you can achieve at the highest level."

The SAFF Championship may have come a tad early for the duo, but Otis has his eyes set on the World Cup qualifiers in October. "Pakistan hasn't ever won one, so that is a big goal," he says. "If we win that, it will bring a lot more games, investment and funding. It's a new team and we are trying our best."

Lebanon thumps Bhutan

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Lebanon thrashed Bhutan 4-1 to secure its second win of the 2023 SAFF Championship here on Sunday.

The results: Lebanon 4 (Mohamad Sadek 11, Ali Al Haj 23, Khalil Bader 35, Mahdi Zein 43) bt Bhutan 1 (Chencho Gyeltshen 79); Bangladesh 3 (Rakib Hossain 42, Tariq Kazi 67, Shekh Morsalin 90) bt Maldives 1 (Hamza Mohammed 17).

Indian team crosses the 150-medal mark

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Press Trust of India
BERLIN

Roller skaters Arayan (300m) and Deepen (1000m) won golds and three more won silvers to help India go past the 150 mark at the Special Olympics World Games. India now has 157 medals (66 gold, 50 silver, 41 bronze).

The Indian men's mixed 5x5 basketball team beat Portugal 6-3 for the gold while the women's 5x5 team won silver. In volleyball, India beat Korea 2-0 in men's/ mixed bronze match. In the women's unified team event, India won gold beating UAE.

In tennis, Swaraaj Singh took the singles Level 5 silver. India also won silver in women's handball.

Warriors beat Masters to go to the top; Grandmasters lose

GLOBAL CHESS LEAGUE

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

In an entertaining contest, Warriors defeated Chingari Gulf Titans 11-6

Despite its icon player Magnus Carlsen losing to Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, SG Alpine Warriors edged past upGrad Mumba Masters 8-7 in the last match of the day to go on top of the leaderboard, with 12 Match Points from five matches, in the Global Chess League here on Sunday.

Earlier, Viswanathan Anand-led Ganges Grandmasters suffered its first defeat, after three consecutive victories, going down to Mumba Masters 6-11 in the opening match of the day.

Great start

Masters, who have had mixed results so far, were given a headstart by D. Harika who got the better of Bella Khotenashvili to earn four game points.

Though Anand struck back against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Grandmasters lost with Richard Rapport going down to Alexander Grischuk, who became the hero of the match and earned three crucial match points for the Masters.

In another entertaining contest Warriors defeated Chingari Gulf Titans 11-6.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov opened the account for Titans defeating D. Gukesh to earn three game points.

But Titans' Nihal Sarin, under time pressure, made a fatal error and lost to Praggnanandhaa.

After three more games ended in draws, Elisabeth Paehtz defeated Polina Shuvalova secure victory for the Warriors.

In the third match of the day, Titans got the better of Balan Alaskan Knights 15-3.

Will fight against WFI chief in court, not on the roads, say wrestlers

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A day after asserting that they could hit the streets again to resume their agitation against WFI chief, the protesting wrestlers on Sunday said the fight against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh will be fought in the court and not on roads.

Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia posted identical tweet where they said the government has fulfilled its promise of filing a chargesheet against Brij Bhushan.

"In this case, the wrestlers will continue till we get justice but it (fight) will be in court and not on road," the statement on twitter read.

Minutes after posting the statement, Vinesh and Sakshi tweeted that they are taking a break from social media for a few days.

Earlier, the wrestlers, who got massive support from farmer leaders, khap panchayats and several other organisation, sat on Jantar Mantar for 38 days before Delhi Police detained them for violating law and order on May 28.

Women's boxing head coach Bhatt withdraws from the elite camp

Bhatt. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

With about three months left for the Asian Games, women's head coach Bhaskar Bhatt has been withdrawn from the elite camp at Patiala.

Bhatt said he requested his parent department, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), to take him back to his original place of posting – National Boxing Academy, Rohtak.

"With the high performance director (Bernard Dunne), foreign coach (Dmitry Dmitruk) and other coaches working, there was not much (scope for my) involvement. So, I requested SAI to withdraw me," said Bhatt.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) is in no hurry to find a replacement for Bhatt. "We don't know why the SAI withdrew Bhatt. We have to look for a replacement even though there is no immediate need for it. We will make a decision next month," said BFI secretary Hemanta Kalita.

Kalita said men's head coach C.A. Kuttappa would be the third evaluator alongside Dunne and Dmitruk during the ongoing assessment for the selections for Asian Games.

Bhatt will lead a second rung team of nine men and seven women to the Elorda Cup in Astana from June 26 to July 2.

Winning smiles: Ayhika, coach Mamata and Sutirtha.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sutirtha and Ayhika pair clinches maiden doubles title

WTT CONTENDER

Sports Bureau

The Indian pair of Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee claimed its maiden women's doubles title in the WTT Contender Tunis on Sunday, with a 11-5, 11-6, 5-11, 13-11 win over the second seeded duo of Miyuu Kihara and Miwa Harimoto of Japan in the final.

Leading by two games to nil, the Indian pair lost the the third but closed out the match in the fourth game – while saving a game point at 9-10 – on its second match point when Kihara's backhand went long.

INBRIEF

Maharashtra Ironmen emerges champ in PHL

Maharashtra Ironmen was crowned the champion of the first-ever season of the Premier Handball League (PHL) after it defeated the Golden Eagles Uttar Pradesh 38-24 in the final in Jaipur on Sunday.

The result (final): Maharashtra Ironmen bt Golden Eagles Uttar Pradesh 38-24. **Special awards: Golden Ball & MVP:** Sukhveer Singh Brar (Golden Eagles UP, 102 goals); **Golden Glove:** T.K. Rahul (Telugu Talons, 184 saves).

Bagnaia wins Dutch MotoGP, extends championship lead

Francesco Bagnaia won the Dutch MotoGP at Assen on Sunday to extend his lead in the championship. Marco Bezzecchi took second with Brad Binder in third only for the South African to pick up a penalty for exceeding track limits that saw him demoted to fourth behind Aleix Espargaro.

Quintal finishes eighth in race 2 of Asia Road C'ships

IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team rider Kavin Quintal finished eighth in race 2 of round 3 of the 2023 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship, in Sugou, Japan, on Sunday. Quintal earned eight points for the team.

Mohun Bagan signs Albanian forward Sadiku

Indian Super League (ISL) champion Mohun Bagan's forwardline got a huge boost with the arrival of Albanian centre forward Armando Sadiku. The 32-year-old penned a two-year contract, the Mariners announced on Sunday.

LIVE TELECAST

CWC Qualifiers: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), Hotstar & FanCode, 12.30 p.m.
Women's Ashes: Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
TNPL: Star Sports 3 & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.
FIH Pro League; SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.40 & 11.10 p.m.

Alcaraz reigns at Queen's, returns to World No. 1

Bublik gets past Rublev to take the Halle Open; Ostapenko overcomes Krejcikova in Birmingham; Kvitova takes the honours in the Berlin Open a week ahead of the Wimbledon championships

TENNIS ROUND-UP

Agencies
LONDON

Front-runner: Carlos Alcaraz hit the top gear ahead of Wimbledon in the best way possible. AP

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz fired a Wimbledon warning as he comfortably beat Alex de Minaur 6-4, 6-4 to claim the Queen's Club title on Sunday and return to World No.1.

In baking temperatures, the 20-year-old had too much firepower for his wily Australian opponent as he claimed his first grass-court title in impressive fashion.

It was only Alcaraz's third tournament on grass, but the way he marched through the draw augurs well for his prospects at Wimbledon where he will be seeded number one.

de Minaur,had chances for a break of serve when leading 4-3 in the opening set but could not take them.

Alcaraz then broke serve in the following game before wrapping up the set on serve.

de Minaur double-faulted to hand over a service game early in the second set and there was no way the Spaniard was going to pass up the opportunity to claim the title.

"It means a lot to have my name on the trophy," said Alcaraz after joining the likes of Rafael Nadal, Pete Sampras and John McEnroe as winners at Queen's.

Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik battled his way past third seed Andrey Rublev 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 thanks to two service breaks to win the Halle Open title, his first on grass just over a week before the start of Wimbledon.

Jelena Ostapenko won a battle of two former French Open champions to beat Barbora Krejcikova 7-6(8), 6-4 to win the Birmingham Open.

After neither player dropped serve in the first set, Ostapenko got the upper hand in a marathon tiebreak slamming a forehand winner down the line on her fourth set point.

The 2017 French Open champion then looked on course to cruise to victory in the second set as she led 5-1.

Krejcikova fought back to narrow the deficit to 5-4 but it was too little, too late for the Czech as Ostapenko served out for the title at the second time of asking.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova beat Donna Vekic of Croatia 6-2, 7-6(6) to claim the German Open and confirm her form on grass a week before the season's third Slam in London.

Mendiratta, Mairaj miss bus to Worlds, Asian Games

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Olympic quota winner Bhowneesh Mendiratta narrowly missed out on a spot in the trap team for the World Championship and the Asian Games, in the shotgun team announced by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) here on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Bhowneesh had won the Olympic quota by finishing fourth in the World Championship in Osijek, Croatia, last year.

The selection was based purely on the best of three scores of the four selection trials, and did not take into consideration the international performances.

Prithviraj Tondaiman who had won the bronze medal in one of the World Cups this season topped men's trap with a cumulative score of six points. In fact, it was new formula that was used to screen the performances with everyone being gauged on the basis of the best score in a match, with points added for final placings.

Olympian Kynan Chenai and Zoravar Singh Sandhu took the second and third spots in the team with scores of two each. Bhowneesh had zero point, and so was the case with former World Champion and six-time Asian champion Manavjit Singh Sandhu.

In men's skeet, World Cup gold medallist Mairaj Ahmad Khan slipped out with a cumulative score of (-10). The 47-year-old Olympian, Mairaj had not only won the individual gold in a World Cup last year, but also won a mixed gold medal in a World Cup this season with Ganemat Sekhon.

Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Olympian Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Gurjoat Singh Khangura made the cut with scores of 14, (-3) and (-5) respectively.

In women's trap, Manisha Keer, Preeti Rajak and Rajeshwari Kumari made it with identical scores of 5. Sabeera Haris (-5), Pragati Dubey (-6), Olympian Shagun Chowdhary (-7) and Shreyasi Singh (-8) missed out.

The teams: Trap: Prithviraj Tondaiman, Kynan Chenai, Zoravar Singh Sandhu; Manisha Keer, Preeti Rajak, Rajeshwari Kumari. **Skeet:** Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa, Gurjoat Khangura; Ganemat Sekhon, Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Darshna Rathore.

Sachin dominates in Sprint Rally Series

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Bengaluru's D. Sachin won titles in two categories in the MMSC two-wheeler Sprint Rally Series 2023, as riders from Karnataka dominated with six victories at the Madras International Circuit here on Sunday.

Sachin took the honours in Group B (Up to 260cc) winning all four rounds that were held over two consecutive weekends and the Open (Up to 750cc), with two wins and as many podiums.

D. Sachin. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The series champions: Open (Up to 750cc): D. Sachin; **Group A (up to 500cc):** Suhail Ahmed (Alisha Racing); **Group B (up to 165cc):** Abrar Pasha; **Group B (260cc):** D Sachin; **Group B (400cc):** Akhand Pratap Singh; **Group D (260cc):** Asad Khan; **Royal Enfield:** V. S. Naresh; **Teenagers:** Rakshit S. Dave. **Women:** Rehana Bee.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

KSP gets the better of BOSCH

KSP defeated BOSCH BC 88-82 in the State 'B' division men's basketball league.

The results: Raising Star 72 (Arpan 23) bt Koramangala SC 49 (Shivam 17, Nandu 11); Devanga Union 75 (Rohan 25, Vishnu 12) bt Protec Association 35 (Divyananda 14, Pradhan 11); Vivek's SC 70 (Rajesh 21, Aaditya 20) bt JSC 60 (Sanket 20, Satyanath 13); KSP 88 (Manoj 22, Nitin 20) bt BOSCH 82 (Shreyas Shetty 31, Karthik Baji 17).

Dharwad wins big against Tumkur

Dharwad Zone defeated Tumkur Zone by 77 runs in the KSCA men's under-23 inter-mofussil tournament here.

The scores: Raichur Zone 223/8 in 50 overs (Vijaya Raj 49, Ajay Gouda 94 n.o., K. Shashikumar 32) bt Mysore Zone 174 in 40.5 overs (Manvanth Kumar 106 n.o., Ashutosh Khuba 4/42).

Mangalore Zone 210/9 in 42 overs (Harshith Poojary 54, Hrishith Shetty 25, Rane Karumbaiah 56, A.N. Shreyas 3/33) lost to Shivamogga Zone 215/4 in 40.2 overs (Shravan Babu 54, Younus Ali Baig 31, Shreyank Sagar 72 n.o.) (Overs reduced due to rain)

Dharwad Zone 232/5 in 43 overs (Sudhanwa Kulkarni 47, R.N. Chirag 53, Omkar Vernekar 65, Adarsh Hiremath 28 n.o.) bt Tumkur Zone 155 in 37.5 overs (M.A. Adarsh 36, A. Akhil 37, Rajendra Danganavar 4/35) (Overs reduced due to rain).

SSCB and Kerala finish on top

Services Sports Control Board and Kerala emerged as the men's and women's water polo champions respectively in the 76th senior National championship here.

Messi recalls his roller-coaster ride with PSG

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Lionel Messi has called his start at former club Paris Saint-Germain "very tough", dubbing two successive failed Champions League bids a "massive disappointment".

"I came to Paris because I liked the club, because I had friends in the dressing room seemed easier for me to adapt rather than another destination I could have gone to," Messi told *beIN Sports* in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

"In reality, it was a very tough adaptation, much harder than I expected with a new game plan, new teammates, a new city.

Messi's first season, during which he scored 11 goals in 34 games for PSG, was made harder after he contracted COVID during the winter break back in Argentina, meaning he was sidelined for a month.

Disappointment

Messi admitted that Champions League losses to Real Madrid in 2022 and Bayern Munich this season were a "massive disappointment".

"In the beginning, it was great, I received a lot of encouragement but later on a part of the Parisian fanbase treated me differently. There was a rupture with a part of the public."

Hockey India names senior men's team core group ahead of ACT

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Hockey India (HI) has named a 39-member senior men's core groupfor the National camp to be held from June 26 to July 19 in Bengaluru.

The core group: Goalkeepers: Krishan Bahadur Pathak, P.R. Sreejesh, Suraj Karkera, Pawan Malik, Prashant Kumar Chauhan; **defenders:** Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Gurinder Singh, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipsan Tirkey, Manjeet; **midfielders:** Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Sumit, Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Mohd. Raheel Mouseen, Maninder Singh; **forwards:** S Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Pawan Rajbhar.

Knotty Charmer bags Colts Championship Stakes

BENGALURU: Prasanna Kumar-trained Knotty Charmer (G. Vivek up) won the Colts Championship Stakes, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 25). The winner is owned by Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. N. Swaroop Kumar, Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Dharmesh Mehtay, Mr. M.N. Nambiar, and Mr. D. Sanjeev Basapa.

Vivek confidently led his colt for a while and settled down to second position till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from outside in the home stretch. Knotty Charmer responded well to the reminders, overtook the leader Galahad near the 500m and after drifting out final stages managed to hold off Synthesis for a narrow win.

Mission accomplished: Owners D. Sanjeev Basapa, M.N. Nambiar, K. Balamukunda Das, K. Kamesh and N. Swaroop Kumar, along with trainer Prasanna Kumar, second left, leading in Knotty Charmer (G. Vivek up), after the winning run in the Colts Championship Stakes on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

THE RESULTS:

1. GUINDY PLATE: SUNWAY LAGOON (Inayat) 1, Firefinch (Arvind K) 2, Master Of Courage (Vishal Bunde) 3 and Ultimate Choice (Ajeeth K) 4. 7-1/4, 1 and 1. 1m, 14.23s. ₹16 (w), 11, 15 and 61 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 117, FP: 49, Q: 40, Trinella: 1,083, Exacta: 2,822. Favourite: Sunway Lagoon. Owner: Mrs. Prabha Dominic. Trainer: S. Dominic.

2. NOBLE PRINCE PLATE (DIV. II): FORT NELSON (Zervan) 1, Roman Spirit (A. Imran) 2, Super Sapphire (Kiran Naidu) 3 and The Strikingly (A. Ramu) 4. 2-1/2, 2 and 2. 1m, 06.66s. ₹13 (w), 10, 13 and 17 (p), SHP: 22, THP: 36, FP: 30, Q: 25, Trinella: 74, Exacta: 129. Favourite: Fort Nelson. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, Mrs. Anneka Darashah & M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

3. PRONTO PRONTO PLATE: MAGNUS (Srinath) 1, Shadow Of The Moon (Yash) 2, Julio (Trevor) 3 and Momentous (M. Prabhakaran) 4. 1-1/2, 1 and 3/4. 1m, 38.83s. ₹120 (w), 27, 12 and 14 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 44, FP: 744, Q: 203, Trinella: 1,561, Exacta: 49,142. Favourite: River Of Gold. Owners: Mr. M. Masroor Alam, Mr. Rohit Raman, Dr. Arun Raghavan & Mr. Anil Saraf. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

4. BERGAMO PLATE: MEMORABLE TIME (S. Saqlain) 1, Rhapsody In Green (Zervan) 2, Bruce Almighty (Rayan) 3 and My Vision (Chethan K) 4. Shd, 1-3/4 and Nk. 1m, 53.14s. ₹56 (w), 13, 13 and 13 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 45, FP: 322, Q: 147, Trinella: 984, Exacta: 27,964. Favourite: Stellar Gold. Owners: Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda & Mr. Sharath M. Narayana. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

5. UPPINI REVANNA SIDDESHWARAPPA MEMORIAL CUP: KALAMITSI (Trevor) 1, Ruling Goddess (Shreyas S) 2, Contribute (Hindu S) 3 and King Of War (Vinod Shinde) 4. Not run: Turkoman. 2, 7-1/4 and 1-3/4. 1m, 37.26s. ₹23 (w), 10, 20 and 14 (p), SHP: 68, THP: 39, FP: 194, Q: 114, Trinella: 1,058, Exacta: 7,431. Favourite: Kalamitsi. Owners: Mr. Solomon Benveniste, M/S. Deciding Factor LLP, Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd, Mr. Hemang D. Doctor & Mr. Lokessh Ahuja. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

6. CIVIL SERVICE CUP: FIRE POWER (Akshay K) 1, Ashwa Magadheera (Yash) 2, Santorino (S. Saqlain) 3 and Shubankar (Sai Kiran) 4. Nk, Lnk and 2. 2m, 05.94s. ₹50 (w), 15, 22 and 10 (p), SHP: 58, THP: 48, FP: 437, Q: 250, Trinella: 1,074, Exacta: 7,704. Favourite: Trevalius. Owners: Col. Nair. S.B & Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

7. COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES: KNOTTY CHARMER (GUSTOSTORMY PRINCESS) G. VIVEK 1, Synthesis (Speaking Of Which-Sana) Yash 2, Christofle (Le Havre-Enzina) Trevor 3 and Destroyer (Exceed And Excel-Abaq) I. Chisty 4. 1/2, 1-1/4 and 1. 1m, 36.55s. ₹184 (w), 36, 16 and 12 (p), SHP: 55, THP: 66, FP: 2,062, Q: 742, Trinella: 4,126, Exacta: 22,661. Favourite: Christofle. Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. N. Swaroop Kumar & Mr. K. Balamukunda Das & Mr. Dharmesh Mehta & Mr. M.N. Nambiar & Mr. D. Sanjeev Basapa. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

8. NOBLE PRINCE PLATE (DIV. I): ALDGATE (S. John) 1, Forty Niner (A. Imran) 2, Spirit Of The Rose (Akshay K) 3 and Eco Friendly (P. Siddaraju) 4. Not run: Phoebe. 1/2, 4-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 06.63s. ₹34 (w), 13, 17 and 10 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 48, FP: 213, Q: 132, Trinella: 240, Exacta: 2,529. Favourite: Spirit Of The Rose. Owners: Mr. Haider Soomar, Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Gautam Aggarwal. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

Jackpot: ₹2,10,591 (carried over).

Runner-up: 30,084 (three tkts.).

Treble (i): 3,559 (four tkts.); (ii): 8,451 (three tkts.).

Arteta wants stronger Arsenal squad to challenge Man City

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Planning ahead: Arsenal manager Arteta feels the next season will be even tougher to reel in Man City. REUTERS

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta believes the Gunners have to strengthen in the transfer market if they are to topple Manchester City as Premier League champion next season.

Arteta's men topped the table for much of last season, but faltered down the stretch after suffering injuries to key players.

City went on to seal its fourth Premier League title in five years and complete the treble by winning the FA Cup and Champions League.

Both clubs are reportedly in a bidding war for West Ham captain Declan Rice, while Arsenal is also set to land Kai Havertz from Chelsea.

"That is our ambition," Arteta told Spanish outlet *Marca* on his hopes of winning the title.

"We know the difficulty: it's the best league in the world and next season is going to be the toughest league in Premier League history.

"Why? It already was last year. I've been here for 22 years and I've never seen a competitive level like that. So much quality, so much organisation, so many resources, so many good coaches

"That's the level and to win the Premier League you have to be the best. That's why you have to strengthen."

Few expected Arsenal to even pose a title challenge having finished out of the top four for the previous six seasons.

But Arteta admitted he is still hurting after leading the Premier League most of the way from August through the April.

"To this day, it still hurts me deep inside not to have won the Premier League after 10 months of fighting with City," he added.

"There were three or four injuries to important players and from then on, everything got complicated. When we had the full team, we were consistent. As soon as problems came, it wasn't enough for us."